

The background features a stack of books with an open book on top. Floating around the books are various white and yellow mathematical symbols and icons, including plus signs, zeros, question marks, infinity symbols, and a hand holding a pen. The overall scene is set against a blurred background of a bookshelf.

The Fourteen Choices of a Poem

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Music

- + How does the poem sound?
- + Is there a rhythm, a rhyme, a silence?
- + How do the words play?



Energy

- + How forceful is the work?
- + Does it dance or rush or pause or move slowly?
- + How do we accomplish this?

Titles

- + Do they really matter?
- + How can we make them matter?
- + How can they be a tool?



Form/No Form

- + How can the physical shape or structure or expectations of the poem drive home the piece?
- + What does form offer?



Language/Vernacular

- + Words change, meaning changes, depending on where you're from. How does that fit into poetry?
- + What can be gained/lost?



Emotion

- + Emotion is a landscape.
- + How can it be reflected in a poem?
- + What be gained by abstraction?





Personal/Impersonal

- + Tense
- + First person, etc.
- + Detail use.
- + Names.



Vantage Point

- + How and why are the images in this poem being seen?
- + How close, how sticky?
- + Description is always modified by the vantage.



Truth, Lies, and Everything

- + Are these tactics or a pursuit?
- + Why lie?
- + How does an unreliable narrator work in poetry?



Landscape

- + Place matters.
- + Context matters.
- + Description matters.
- + Are we safe here?

This modern world.

- + AI
- + Technology in writing.
- + Playing with translators.





The Bright & Shiny: Pop Culture in Poetry

- + Movies
- + Music
- + TV
- + Social Media
- + What is lost and what is gained?



Bells & Whistles

How to use punctuation strategically in your poem.



**All of it, some
of it, none of
it...**