

## Ground Rules (in no particular order)

1. Some of us have been in this group a very long time, some of us are new. If you want to catch up or get to know someone better come early and chat, or stay late or ask them to coffee. Let us plan on starting on time and staying on task.
2. Please remember—we are writers, we make things up. Do not assume that the author of the poem is the person in or narrator of the poem.
3. We will start by asking/mentioning if anyone has a reading coming up or other pertinent writing announcements.
4. We are honoring the voice of the poet when we critique the poem, to make it better for the author of the poem.
5. Bring a copy for everyone.
6. Read your poem.
7. Before you read your poem you may ask or comment about a particular problem, ie. I can't find a title, the ending seems wrong.
8. Alternatively, before you read your poem you do not tell us about your poem.
  - a. It does not matter if the poem is for a book or a series the poem itself should stand on its own.
  - b. We cannot unhear your comments and it will inform our critique.
9. Everyone writes a critique on the poem.
  - a. Everyone signs their name to their comments.
10. First person to the left of the reader starts the critique, critiques proceed clockwise so that everyone gets a turn to be first.
11. Don't interrupt the critique.
12. When comments are given say thanks or nod, do not comment on the comments.
  - a. After all the comments are given you **may** briefly answer a particular question that the group or someone in the group had.
  - b. You may also ask a brief follow up question after you've received all your critiques.
13. Please restrict your feedback to the poem and not to segues about something similar.
14. If you have nothing new to add it's okay, you can tell us what you loved about the poem and then say you have nothing new to add.
15. If at the end, after everyone has given their feedback if they have a pertinent comment or suggestion they may bring it up before we move to the next person.
16. If your poem is longer than 2 pages email it the week before and we will critique it the following week.
17. If you don't have a poem you should still come:
  - a. Bring a poem by someone else you like.
  - b. Bring a form and explain it.
  - c. Bring a writing exercise you enjoyed and explain it;

- i. we won't do the exercise right then and there.
18. Have fun. Go wild and crazy try new things, revise old things.
  19. Please clean up after yourself, cups in the sink, trash in the trash can, etc.
  20. If you are sick cancel, don't come, don't share the love.