

SOME THINGS I KNOW ABOUT LEARNING TO WRITE POEMS

We cannot really be taught to write--we all must teach ourselves to write.

BUT this process has corollary implications:

- 1) We learn to write by practicing, by doing it.**
- 2) We do not learn to write by talking about writing.**
- 3) Learning to write is easiest:**
 - if you write frequently.**
 - if you have a writing coach.**
 - if you receive explicit feedback from peers who are taking the same risks as you.**
 - if your subject matter extends beyond your own history and ego.**
 - if you write about what you love.**
 - once you grasp that writing is an act of the hand, not just the mind.**

I am your writing coach.

I've been coaching writing for forty years. I'm pretty good.