



Online Poetry Masterclass

*Pushing the Boundaries
of Your Poetry*

with Helen Cox



About The Tutor

Helen Cox is a Yorkshire-born novelist and poet, best known for her Kitt Hartley murder mystery series. Helen has produced two poetry pamphlets, a full collection of poetry and her individual poems have been published in Popshot Magazine, From Whispers to Roars, Visual Verse, Riggwelter, Three Drops from a Cauldron, Pop the Culture Pill and the TL;DR Women's Anthology.

Helen studied for her teacher training qualification at the Institute of Education, has more than a decade of teaching experience, and teaches an annual poetry masterclass at Keats House.



Course Dates and Timings

Course Dates:

30th August - 3rd December 2022.

Course Times:

A monthly peer Zoom call will take place on:

- Monday September 4th (6 - 7pm GMT)
- Monday October 2nd (6- 7pm GMT)
- Monday November 6th (6 - 7pm GMT)

The monthly peer call will be recorded for any students who cannot make that time. You will also arrange a monthly 1-1 call with your tutor at a time that suits you in the last week of each month. The rest of your studies can be completed at a time of your choosing.





Course Overview

- Application-based enrolment.
- 14 weeks of learning.
- Personalised monthly mentorship Zoom calls with your cohort.
- Personalised monthly 1-1 with your tutor on Zoom.
- High quality weekly reading materials including guidance on core poetry techniques and ten writing prompts.
- 12 poems critiqued by your tutor.
- 14 poems critiqued by your peers.
- End of term online performance night.
- Poetry publishing master list and poetry polishing masterplan distributed at the end of the course.
- Course fee £495.
- One fully-funded scholarship place in each cohort for a poet with limited financial means.

A photograph of a person's hands writing in a notebook. The scene is dimly lit, with a single lit candle in a holder providing the primary light source on the left. The person is holding a pen and writing on a piece of paper that is slightly torn at the edges. The background is dark and out of focus.

Core Components

High Quality Prompts

Each week, you will receive an exclusive resource pack that offers in-depth prompts and multi-media stimuli. From these resources, poets will be encouraged to write between three and five first draft poems.

You will then select one of these poems to be critiqued by the group and your tutor.

Core Components

Weekly Poetry Critiques

Each week you can submit one poem to the Google Classroom group and will receive feedback from your peers and tutor. We ask that all students commit to commenting on the work of at least three of their peers.

Your tutor will offer both suggested structural edits and line edits for your weekly poem.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing in a small, open, cream-colored notebook. The notebook is resting on a dark, textured surface. The left hand holds the notebook open, and the right hand, holding a yellow pencil, is in the process of writing. The notebook pages contain handwritten text in dark ink, which appears to be a list of items. The background is dark and out of focus, with some white rectangular objects visible in the upper left corner. A white, torn-edge paper strip separates the photograph from the text on the right.

Core Components

Monthly Mentorship Meetings

Each month, members of the class meet with their tutor both as a group and individually on Zoom.

These mentorship meetings are completely personalized. They serve as an opportunity for students to ask any questions unique to their writing journey and receive individual help in revising and shaping their poetry.



Curriculum Dates & Breakdown

Month 1

28th Aug – 3rd Sep 2022:

Pre-course information & preparation. Introductions on Google Classroom and self-assessment.

4th Sep – 2nd Oct:

Month 1: Pushing Poetic Boundaries.

Topics include:

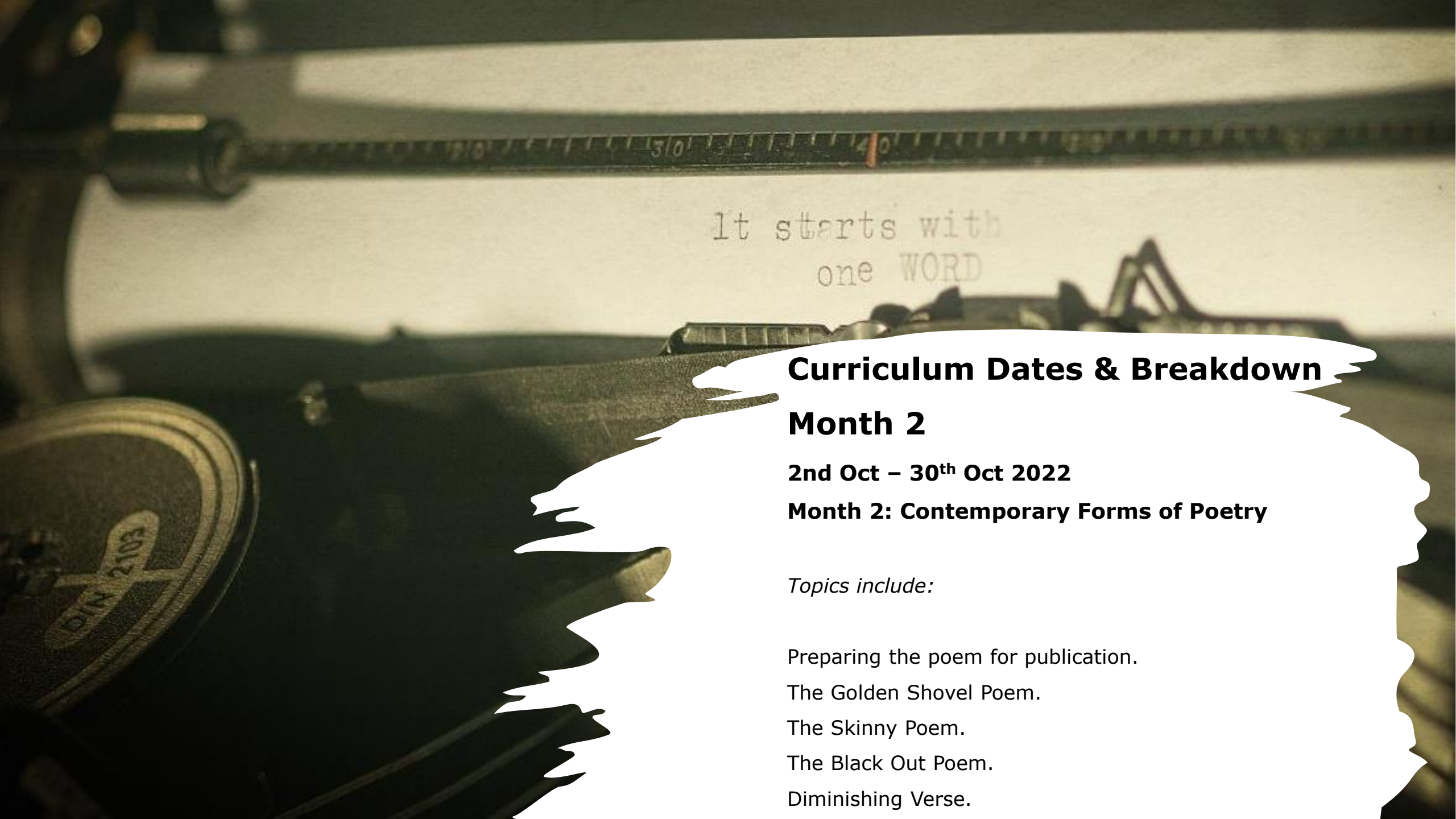
Approaches to revision.

Optimizing your line breaks.

Experiments in graphology.

Experiments in pop culture.

Accepting the double dare.



It starts with
one WORD

Curriculum Dates & Breakdown

Month 2

2nd Oct – 30th Oct 2022

Month 2: Contemporary Forms of Poetry

Topics include:

Preparing the poem for publication.

The Golden Shovel Poem.

The Skinny Poem.

The Black Out Poem.

Diminishing Verse.

Curriculum Dates & Breakdown

Month 3

**6th Nov – 2nd Dec 2022 Month 3:
Working in the Multi-Genre Space**

Topics include:

- How to create a poetry collection.
- The poem as a short story.
- The poem as a horoscope.
- The poem as a set of field notes.
- The poem as an instruction manual.
- End of term online spoken word event.
- End of course materials distributed.





FAQs

Q. Will I be taught to write traditional forms?

A. You can learn traditional forms on almost any poetry workshop. This masterclass aims to offer something a little different and thus, a working knowledge of traditional forms is assumed. But don't panic, I've collated [a list of free resources on core traditional forms](#) so you can brush-up before the course / develop your craft for free. You can find that list here. Enjoy!



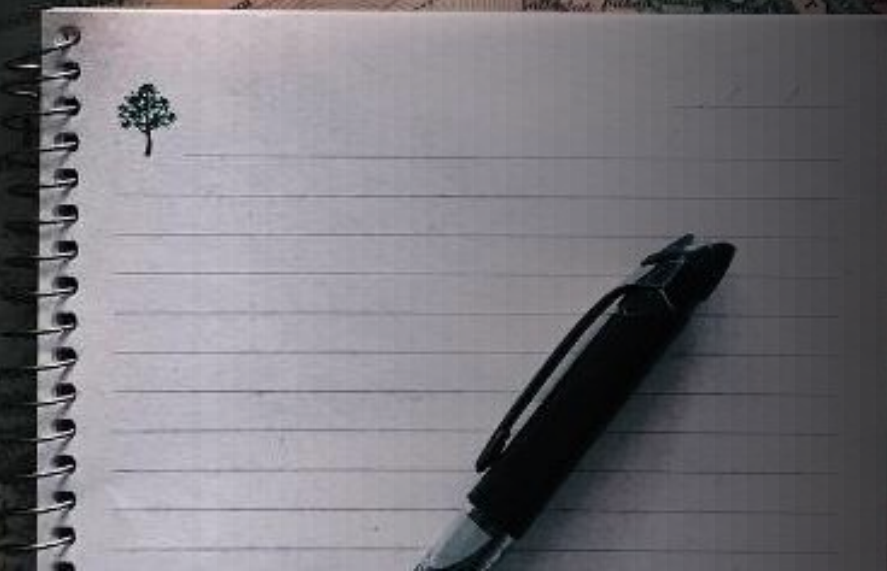
FAQs

Q. How will feedback be given?

A. Your tutor and your peers will post their comments on your poems to Google Classroom. There will also be two opportunities for a face-to-face peer paired workshop over Zoom. All students receive clear instructions on how to structure their feedback in a constructive manner. Your tutor will discuss all comments on your work in a monthly 1-1 Zoom call with you.

Q. How long are the monthly Zoom calls?

A. Each month you will have an hour-long Zoom call with the cohort and a 30 minute 1-1 Zoom call with your tutor. The cohort Zoom call is recorded in case any students are unavailable at the set time. Any follow-up questions can be asked via Google Classroom.



A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's hand holding a pen and writing in a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook is open, and the pages are filled with handwritten text. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the movement of the pen. The background is dark and out of focus.

FAQs

Q. How many hours should I spend on the course?

A. A minimum of 5 hours a week split between reading, critiquing, writing and Zoom calls. Any extra will serve your craft!

Q. How can I pay for the course?

A. Students pay the course fee in one lump sum once notified that their application has been successful. One full-funded scholarship place is available in each cohort. Details of how to apply can be found at helencoxbooks.com/scholarship

FAQs

Q. What technical skills will I need for the course?

A. You will need to be able to follow step-by-step instructions to enrol on Google Classroom, be familiar with Zoom and be able to upload and download documents.

Q. How will I cope if my application is rejected?

A. We are all on a journey with our poetry, and it's important that you enrol on the right course at the right time. Otherwise, you could severely dent your confidence and that's the last thing I'd want for you as an artist and a human being.

If the course doesn't look like it's a fit for you this time, I will suggest some other online courses with other institutions that will nurture your skills so that you can reapply for my masterclass at a future date. I'll always be really specific with my feedback so you know exactly which skill you need to work on to be accepted next time.





How to Apply

The course is open for applications now.

Please send your application to the following email address: helen@helencoxbooks.com by midday GMT on Tuesday 15th August 2023.

Please include:

- Three of your best poems in one Word document.
- A paragraph (500 words or fewer) explaining your approach to critiquing the work of other poets.

You will receive a decision within two days of application.

Places are confirmed once payment for the course has been received.