Viscera

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Is anything written in verse poetry? Many people think this is true. I happen to disagree. Though it is true that poetry is indeed written in verse, does being written in verse really constitute a poem? I think not!

Poetry is more than a bunch of words written on paper in a neat, tidy, and pretty format. Poetry is more than length and width. It has to have substance. It has to have height. It has to have viscera.

There’s a fancy medical term. Viscera refers to the innards of the abdominal cavity. Without those innards, we wouldn’t be able to function. Our metabolism would be shot, and our tissues would start to rot. A putrefaction from lack of nutrition.

Who sits in a café strumming on a guitar
Coming up with lyrics and verses for folk songs
That never make sense
Because he never had the ambitions or the brain capacity
To get a job!
The junior philosopher
Who, instead of actually studying philosophy
Decides to make it up himself
And writes haikus about his "faux-losophy"
Hoping to enlighten someone.
Unfortunately, though not surprisingly, they suck.
Haikus were never designed to be written in English.
Now you know why haikus aren’t taken seriously...
That is, if they’re not well-written.
(My legal team advised me to add this disclaimer.)
Misinformation in malpractice
Verses and verses and volumes of verses
Of pure unfiltered grade-A crap.
All of it very flat
Many teachers have said the following:
Great writers are also readers.
So if you want to write poetry,
Do yourself a favor:
Try reading some poetry
Before you put pen to paper
Get a sense for it
See the deeper meaning
And see the art
But mostly, and I stress mostly
See the viscera.
See that x-factor that gives the poem life
See how the words are used
See how the poet interacts with the audience
See what the poem represents