



Wishes, Lies, and Dreams: Teaching Children to Write Poetry

By Kenneth Koch, Ron Padgett

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The classic, inspiring account of a poet's experience teaching school children to write poetry

When Kenneth Koch entered the Manhattan classrooms of P.S. 61, the children, excited by the opportunity to work with an instructor able to inspire their talent and energy, would clap and shout with pleasure. In this vivid account, Koch describes his inventive methods for teaching these children how to create poems and gives numerous examples of their work. *Wishes, Lies, and Dreams* is a valuable text for all those who care about freeing the creative imagination and educating the young.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Perhaps the best book I have read portraying the joy and excitement young people experience when writing in a happy place where people care about their works...The ideas Koch uses are good. I've tried them with my writing classes, and they work."-- Herbert Kohl, "Saturday Review""I wish every grade school teacher would run out and read Kenneth Koch's "Wishes, Lies, and Dreams." If many of them took Koch's advice seriously we would have at the very least a poetry revolution, not to mention the possibility that a lot of kids would start having a good time in school." -- Allen Wiggins, "Cleveland Plain Dealer""There are enough ideas in the book, all laid out in good detail by Koch, and with great respect for his fellow artists, the students, to give other teachers a workable plan for teaching poetry...Koch has helped people discover joy in words, and that is what the love of poetry is all about." -- "Virginia Quarterly Review"

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Kenneth Koch is a celebrated poet and the author of numerous books of poetry, literary criticism, short fiction, and plays. He has won many literary awards, including the Bollingen Prize for Poetry in 1995. A professor of English at Columbia University, Koch lives in New York City.

Ron Padgett is a poet who teaches poetry writing at Columbia University and Brooklyn College and serves as publications director of Teacher & Writers Collaborative.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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