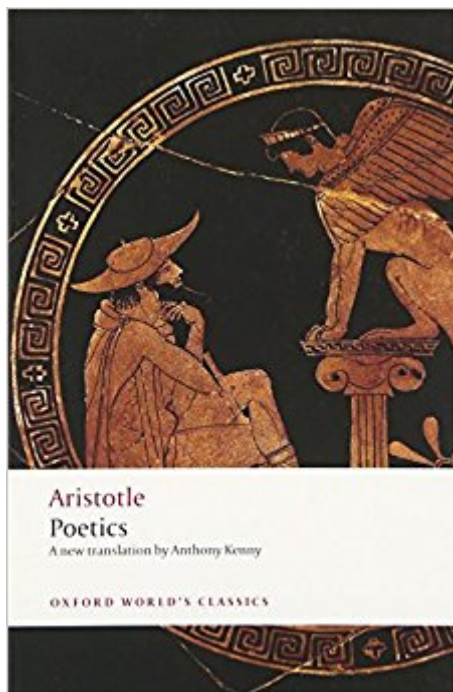


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Poetics (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

"What is poetry, how many kinds of it are there, and what are their specific effects?" Aristotle's *Poetics* is the most influential book on poetry ever written. A founding text of European aesthetics and literary criticism, it has shaped much of our modern understanding of the creation and impact of imaginative writing, including poetry, drama, and fiction. This brief volume brims with Aristotle's timeless insights into such topics as the nature of tragedy and plot—a veritable gold mine for writers and anyone with a serious interest in literature. Moreover, this volume boasts a marvelous new translation by our greatest living historian of philosophy, Anthony Kenny, who also provides an illuminating introduction to this classic work. Kenny sheds light on the philosophical underpinnings of Aristotle's literary criticism and he illuminates the ideas about poetry, drama, and tragedy that have influenced writers and dramatists ever since. Kenny also includes excerpts from key responses to Aristotle, ranging from Sir Philip Sidney's *Apology for Poetry* and Shelley's *Defense of Poetry*, to Dorothy L. Sayers' *Aristotle on Detective Fiction*. The book also features helpful notes, a glossary of key terms, an index, a useful bibliography, and a chronology of Aristotle's life.

About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

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Customer Reviews

Sir Anthony Kenny is a distinguished philosopher whose books include *The Aristotelian Ethics* (1978), *Aristotle's Theory of the Will* (1979), and *Aristotle on the Perfect Life* (1992). His most recent book is *A New History of Western Philosophy* (2010). For Oxford World's Classics he has translated Aristotle's *Eudemian Ethics*.

I bought this because Aaron Sorkin said it was one of his favorite books on writing. I expected dense and it is but not in the way I imagined. It's also clever and interesting and in an odd way comforting to know these writing principles are ancient and true-- true in the way of hitting their mark. However, a practical guide on writing this is not, you have to sift through it to find what applies to your writing. Not sure I agree with Sorkin, but glad to have read it. Plus, now I can sound soooooo cerebral when I tell people I read this.

this is THE foundation text for all creative writers, not just screen writers! I'm glad to have it as part of my permanent collection, where I can turn to it again and again for inspiration.

The Kindle edition of the Oxford World's Classics version is not well executed. The text is there and legible but there are numbers in the margin that seem to link to nothing and have no readily apparent significance. Another example of lousy conversion from print to ebook. Stick with the actual book. The Kindle edition is a disappointment.

The Penguin Aristotle editions are probably the best available for nonspecialists with limited or no classical Greek. The long and detailed introduction is worth the cost of this book alone; and the translation itself is scrupulous and scrupulously annotated with detailed notes and references to historical contexts and Aristotle's other writings. (The H.C. Lawson-Tancred translation and annotation of Aristotle's *Art of Rhetoric* is another outstanding example.) I have read the *Poetics* in various translations for over forty years. This is by far the best translation for conveying, as nearly as possible, what Aristotle actually wrote and, even more importantly, the historical and literary contexts in which he wrote and the consequent inferences his first Greek readers would have been expected to make based on what they knew. It's also a very readable translation (no small feat with Aristotle, who can be made very tough going in English by translators more interested in showing off their erudition than assisting readers). This is the translation to buy for students or casual readers making their first attempt at Aristotle, or by more seasoned readers who have been confused or

discouraged by enigmatic translations without notes. This is also an economically priced translation, a much better buy than the cheaper, unannotated translations.

Going back to read some classic literature and this is great!

It helps to be familiar with a couple of the great works of Greek tragedy before you read this, to provide a more full understanding when the author uses examples. However, as a therapist who uses narrative therapy, the importance of this study extends far beyond the stage.

Obviously only relevant to those of us who are writers or interested in writing. You'll almost definitely need some kind of guide to go along with this 2,000+ years old writing.

Very good book for philosophy or political science.

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