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978-0-521-77294-5 - The Cambridge Introduction to Poetic Form  
Michael D. Hurley and Michael O'Neill  
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*The Cambridge Introduction to  
Poetic Form*

This lively and accessible book explores the ways in which poetic form itself forms, and may indeed transform, a poem's 'meaning'. After a chapter on the elements of form (such as rhythm, metre, rhyme, and stanza), subsequent chapters open out into generic considerations of lyric, the sonnet, elegy, soliloquy, dramatic monologue, and ballad and narrative. Unlike most existing works on the subject, this book is not so much interested in mapping, classifying, and listing as it is in evaluating the aesthetic possibilities that attend different kinds of form. Carefully and closely engaging with a wide range of examples, and building on relevant scholarship, *The Cambridge Introduction to Poetic Form* provides help to undergraduates and more advanced readers alike through its sustained examination of how poems express themselves as poetry.

Michael D. Hurley is a Fellow and Director of Studies in English at Robinson College, Cambridge. He has written widely on English literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with an emphasis on poetry and poetics. His book on G. K. Chesterton's literary thinking was published in 2012, and he is currently working on *A History of Poetics: From Classical Antiquity to the Present* (forthcoming with Cambridge University Press).

Michael O'Neill is Professor of English at Durham University. His books include *The All-Sustaining Air* (2007), a study of the twentieth- and twenty-first-century legacies of Romantic poetry. He edited *The Cambridge History of English Poetry* (2010) and co-edited *Romantic Poetry: An Annotated Anthology* (2008). He has published two collections of poems and received a Cholmondeley Award for Poets in 1990.

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MICHAEL D. HURLEY

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## *Note on Texts*

Unless indicated otherwise, poems are quoted from the fifth edition of *The Norton Anthology of English Poetry*, ed. Margaret Ferguson, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy (New York: Norton, 2005), or from the seventh edition of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, ed. M. H. Abrams et al. (2 vols. New York: Norton, 2000). Shakespeare is quoted from *The Norton Shakespeare*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al. (New York: Norton, 1997). Dates of first publication or occasionally of composition are usually supplied.