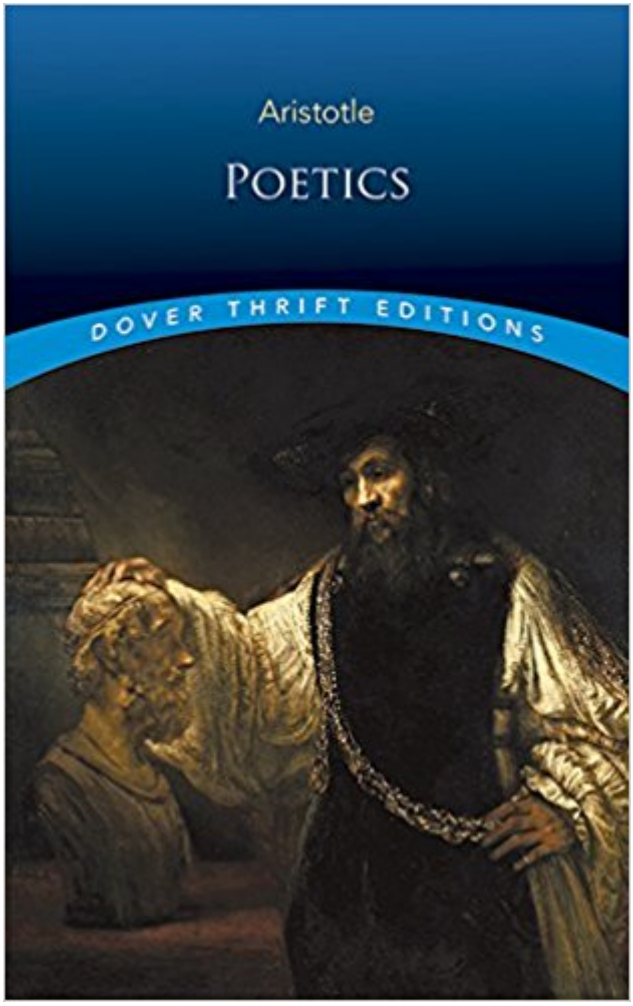
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Poetics (Dover Thrift Editions)



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Synopsis

Among the most influential books in Western civilization, Aristotle’s Poetics is really a treatise on fine art. In it are mentioned not only epic and dithyrambic poetry, but tragedy, comedy, and flute and lyre playing. Aristotle’s conception of tragedy, i.e. the depiction of a heroic action that arouses pity and fear in the spectators and brings about a catharsis of those emotions, has helped perpetuate the Greek ideal of drama to the present day. Similarly, his dictums concerning unity of time and place, the necessity for a play to have a beginning, middle, and end, the idea of the tragic flaw and other concepts have had enormous influence down through the ages.Throughout the work, Aristotle reveals not only a great intellect analyzing the nature of poetry, music, and drama, but also a down-to-earth understanding of the practical problems facing the poet and playwright. Now, in this inexpensive edition of the Poetics, readers can enjoy the seminal insights of one of the greatest minds in human history as he sets about laying the foundations of critical thought about the arts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Greek

Aristotle’s Poetics is one of the most powerful, perceptive and influential works of criticism in Western literary history. A penetrating, near-contemporary account of Greek tragedy, it demonstrates how the elements of plot, character and spectacle combine to produce ’pity and fear’ -

and why we derive pleasure from this apparently painful process. It introduces the crucial concepts of mimesis ('imitation'), hamartia ('error') and katharsis, which have informed serious thinking about drama ever since. It examines the mythological heroes, idealized yet true to life, whom Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides brought on to the stage. And it explains how the most effective plays rely on complication and resolution, recognitions and reversals. Essential reading for all students of Greek literature and of the many Renaissance and post-Renaissance writers who consciously adopted Aristotle as a model, the Poetics is equally stimulating for anyone interested in theatre today.

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 soooooooo 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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