

The misconceptions brought forth by both readers and writers of English poetry led me to create this reference. New readers describe it as impenetrable at times and novice writers think of it as aimless, amorphous prose. Both aren't necessarily wrong, but their perceptions would change given the proper knowledge and tools. I aimed to provide both.

I implemented the reference material in a website resembling software API, since the format is scannable, allowing for visitors to start at the most relevant section to their needs. The main issue with this was two-fold: primarily, I would need to re-organize my content into sections that best fit the format; secondarily, I had never touched a markup language, aside from some basic LaTeX. In re-organizing my content, I took the DITA approach prompted by EPPO, which states that topics fall into one of three categories, Concepts, Procedures, and References. My content was either a concept or a reference. To further implement the lessons in EPPO, I turned the concept topics into pathfinder topics to both provide a basis of knowledge while giving the reader an idea of what order to approach the reference topics. Learning HTML and CSS was less intimidating once I realised it had little in common with other types of programming. The exposure to a new markup language gave me an idea of how tagging and formatting worked, for which I am better off.

In testing the viability of the website, I asked my peers outside of class to provide feedback. When it came to the programming and functionality, they suggested ways to clean up the code that produced the same result, but in fewer lines. In content, I asked them to read through a topic, then read a poem to identify where the topic showed up in the poem. These tests were successful, but with a very small sample size. I would need feedback from more readers of differing abilities to iterate further. For the future, I could also expand the number of topics and provide more examples to better implement the reference topics, maybe spruce up the website with more color and stuff.