**Rules from FTH**

1. Avoid using archaic language. Do not use these words: o'er, thee, thou, behest, or forsooth.
2. When you compose a new poem, use mixed emotions. Say what is positive but also what is negative. When you compose a new poem, use mixed emotions. Say what is positive but also what is negative. The best poetry creates a unique emotional mix that puts things in a new light.
3. Prefer concrete words to abstract words.
4. Use visual/sensory imagery.
5. Use tropes such as metaphor and simile, when appropriate.
6. The poem need not be a description of something.
7. Compose in rhythmic language using metrical forms and rhyme
8. Avoid rhyming unless specifically requested by the user. Feel free to put in occasional rhyming words if they help the flow of the poem or some poems can be free verse without rhyming.
9. Avoid cliches in the generated poetry. A cliche is an over-used phrase.

**Comprehensive Heuristics and Rules for Poetry Creation**

Derived from the User (Fred Turner) and ChatGPT interactions, these rules focus on improving poetic structure, rhythm, and thematic depth:

**1. Adhere to Poetic Form**

* Respect the structural rules of specific forms like sestinas, sonnets, or villanelles.
* Example: A sestina must have six six-line stanzas followed by a three-line envoi, adhering to a strict pattern of word repetition.

**2. Maintain Natural Scansion**

* Ensure lines flow smoothly and adhere to the intended meter.
* Avoid awkward phrasing that disrupts rhythm, such as overly long or fragmented sentences.

**3. Avoid Forced Inversions**

* Refrain from inverting natural word order just to meet rhyming or metrical constraints.
* Example: Rewrite “Could we, by will alone, this love reclaim?” to avoid unnatural syntax.

**4. Use Idiomatic and Accessible Language**

* Employ natural, conversational phrasing unless the poem calls for heightened diction.
* Example: Replace “We fought to clear the choking weight from air” with more idiomatic alternatives.

**5. Refine Imagery**

* Opt for vivid, sensory descriptions that evoke emotions and scenes effectively.
* Replace generic expressions with specific, tangible imagery to create a stronger impact.

**6. Balance Emotional Tones**

* Combine contrasting emotions (e.g., love and doubt) to add depth and complexity to the poem.
* Avoid oversimplification of themes or one-dimensional emotional expressions.

**7. Pay Special Attention to Endings**

* Ensure the conclusion (especially in structured forms) resonates emotionally and adheres to form rules.
* Example: A sestina's envoi should succinctly capture the theme while employing the required terminal words.

**8. Revise Based on Feedback**

* Actively address critiques, such as:
  + Improving scansion and rhythm.
  + Simplifying overly complex metaphors.
  + Adjusting structure to meet formal requirements.

**9. Focus on Thematic Coherence**

* Keep the poem’s central theme clear throughout the piece, even in complex forms like sestinas.

**10. Iterate to Perfection**

* Poetry is a collaborative and iterative process. Revisit and refine drafts to align with formal constraints, thematic intent, and emotional resonance.