does this title work?

to write a good poem

not quite what I thought

some rules are helpful

but then some are not

no ending in -ing,

or repeat-ing too much

you can rhyme if you want

but no repeating too much

to capitalize fine

BUT NOT EVERY LINE

and even a paragraph

here and there would be fine

the purpose might be

to illicit a feeling

but not so insulting

the reader’s left reeling

Dr Seuss-type poems

are still quite in vogue

just as Frost and Dickenson

Thomas and Poe

you can swear, I found out,

if your poem is brilliant

but if not then you better be

fucking resilient

every line of a poem

‘should convey meaning’

then what is the meaning

of should convey meaning?

more questions than answers

the piece must display,

so why am I writing this

down anyway?

I’ve heard in my learning that

I can’t know the end

of a poem I’m writing

from when I begin

use fewer words

you poet yes

I poet not

I try best

I now know a little

about this art

if there’s a poet in me

this is a start.

* Mark Gilbert

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