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PHOTO BY JOHN CLARKE RUSS

ALICE B. FOGEL has taught reading, writing, and other arts programs for all ages in a variety of venues, from colleges to clubs, primary schools to summer institutes. A co-founder of the New Hampshire Young Writers Conference, she has presented programs through arts and humanities councils, at the Frost Place Teachers Conference on Poetry, and elsewhere. Alice's most recent book of poems, *Be That Empty*, was a national poetry bestseller in 2008, and her poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including the *Best American Poetry* series. She is available to lead reading group discussions, professional development workshops, or any other programs for exploring the world of poetry. For more information about Alice, please visit

www.alicebfogel.com.

Strange Terrain fills an empty place. It is an essential resource for anyone who wants to feel more comfortable with reading poetry: individuals, reading groups, teachers, even friends and families of poets. In eight simple steps, award-winning poet and teacher Alice B. Fogel offers readers the tools they need to make their own confident way through poetry's strange terrain.



Programs by the Author

Like the book, programs offered in conjunction with *Strange Terrain* directly address why poetry can and should retain some mystery even when readers know many of the elements it contains. The most important and surprising message *Strange Terrain* delivers is that poetry is not something that we are meant to "get," but something that gets us.

"The teacher was excellent. I knew nothing about poetry and now I want to learn more about it."

—NY workshop participant

"This program opened my eyes to a new world."

—NH participant

"The best presenter we've had."

—Westchester, NY American Association of University Women member

"You mean it's OK to enjoy it even if I don't totally get it? What a relief!"

—Reading group participant

Strange Terrain

*A Poetry Handbook
for the Reluctant Reader*

Alice B. Fogel

"Great advice, good humor, excellent examples . . . and not textbooky. Playful and accessible, the continuing point that you don't have to 'get' poems to get them will ease a lot of minds. This is an important work on a mysterious subject—the reading of poetry. I learned a lot. Painlessly."

—Rebecca Rule, author of *Could Have Been Worse*

Strange Terrain is a book for individual readers, for teachers, and for those who want to work in groups or programs.

“Readers who have followed the steps of this guide carefully will not reach Step 8 feeling cheated because they still don’t have a formula for unlocking every poetry secret. Rather, armed with knowledge of how a poem’s shape, words, sound, images, emotions, thoughts, and literary devices work to build, communicate, and deepen the mystery, readers are likely to sigh with relief that there still is plenty in poetry to wonder about, to feel but not articulate, to sense but not say.”

—From the Foreword by BROCK DETHIER, Director, Utah State University Writing Program

≈ PROGRAMS BY AUTHOR ALICE FOGEL ≈

PROGRAMS FOR READING GROUPS

Strange Terrain’s eight Steps enable participants to quickly see that they already have most of what it takes to feel comfortable with poetry. Through readings, lectures and discussions, Alice demystifies poetry and at the same time shows readers how to value the mystery that remains.

PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS

Alice asks teachers, first and foremost, to become regular readers and learners. In this role, they can begin to forge confident relationships with poetry. Exercises and tips on how to pass the same reading process onto their students follow. Teachers may share their own poetry doubts and “traumas,” and Alice will cover questions like:

What if I don’t “get” poetry myself? What am I missing when I read a poem? What makes a poem “good”? Can students find poetry relevant to their lives? Can I connect poetry to other school subjects, even non-language arts ones? How do I grade a poem, or a student’s reading of one? Will young kids like poems if they’re not funny? What measurable components can I teach, and how do I do that without poetry becoming dry and dreaded?

To arrange a program or learn more, contact Alice Fogel by e-mail at fogeledson@ecoisp.com or by phone at 603-835-6783.

Rather than repeating elements teachers are already familiar with, such as alliteration, rhyme or meter, participants look at *Strange Terrain’s* eight Steps for discovering greater depths in poetry by means of specific, usable, and life-affirming skills. These Steps demystify poems and help participants discover how to move through a poem, and be moved by it, without having to know, or pretend to know, what it “means.”

Finally, the program covers where to find contemporary resources for age-appropriate poetry, how to separate students’ reading and studying of published poems from their own attempts to write poems, and how to include actual elements of poetry in other school subjects, such as science, and vice versa.

Depending on hosts’ needs, programs may take place on a single evening, in a half- or full-day workshop, or over an extended time. Fees vary accordingly.

***Strange Terrain* and its companion programs invigorate readers by almost instantly changing their uncertainty to confident enthusiasm. And as prose author and reviewer Rebecca Rule said, it all happens “painlessly.”**

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www.Amazon.com

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