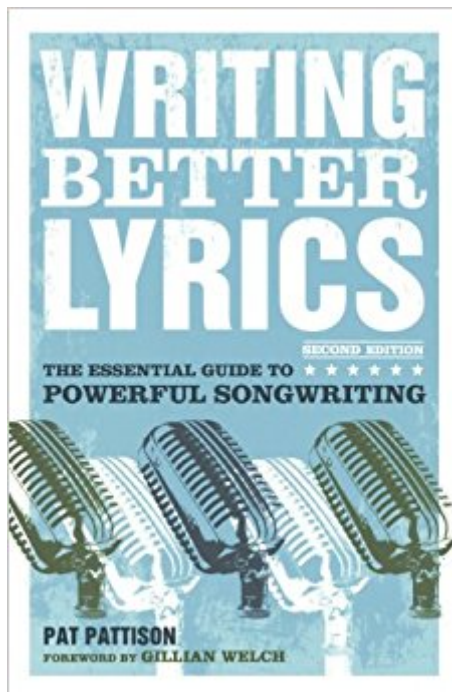


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# Writing Better Lyrics



## Synopsis

The Must-Have Guide for Songwriters *Writing Better Lyrics* has been a staple for songwriters for nearly two decades. Now this revised and updated 2nd Edition provides effective tools for everything from generating ideas, to understanding the form and function of a song, to fine-tuning lyrics. Perfect for new and experienced songwriters alike, this time-tested classic covers the basics in addition to more advanced techniques. Songwriters will discover:

- How to use sense-bound imagery to enhance a song's emotional impact on listeners
- Techniques for avoiding clichés and creating imaginative metaphors and similes
- Ways to use repetition as an asset
- How to successfully manipulate meter
- Instruction for matching lyrics with music
- Ways to build on ideas and generate effective titles
- Advice for working with a co-writer
- And much more

Featuring updated and expanded chapters, 50 fun songwriting exercises, and examples from more than 20 chart-topping songs, *Writing Better Lyrics* gives you all of the professional and creative insight you need to write powerful lyrics and put your songs in the spotlight where they belong.

## Book Information

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Publishing Guides > Writing > Writing Skills

## Customer Reviews

Pat Pattison is a professor at Berklee College of Music, where he teaches lyric writing and poetry. His books include *Writing Better Lyrics*, *The Essential Guide to Lyric Form and Structure*, and *The Essential Guide to Rhyming*. In addition, Pat has developed three online lyric writing courses for Berklee's online school, and has written articles for a variety of industry publications. His internationally successful students include multiple Grammy winners John Mayer and Gillian Welch.

He lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

For a songwriter, Pat Pattison's prose is atrocious. This book is written way too casually, with too many unnecessary passages, unrelated tangents and anecdotes that could have been left out. A better editor could have cut this book in half. An especially egregious part is after only three pages of rhyming exercises, where he stops the lesson abruptly to plug another book with more of his rhyming exercises. This is a perfect example of the wasted potential here. 40 pages into a 300 pages book, he stops teaching to plug another one of his books. Like anything related to Berklee, I suppose they want you to pay your entire soul for their knowledge. This book is not a good teaching guide. It's full of awful exercises, like "Go find a final line that's better than mine" (19). This book has taught me NOTHING I don't already know, and I frankly feel like my intelligence has been insulted. Again, the atrocious writing style doesn't help. Pat Pattison writes like an old Southerner spinning tales off his back porch. It's distracting, annoying, and adds nothing to the book. "Yep", "Yup", "Yessirree", "I get it, folk music tradition, but Jesus. It's like Mark Twain is teaching me how to write songs. Can't someone ghostwrite for him? This book could have spent A LOT more time examining what makes good lyrics work, instead of repeating the same lines with slightly different rhyme schemes ad nauseum. A lot of this feels like filler. The two chapters near the end on "song form" are illuminating, but they're a short 10 pages. This is interrupted by a lengthy dissection of "She Sells Sea Shells", ending with ten different versions of the song. I am not kidding. I thought this was a book for more advanced songwriters. It is not. It is better suited for someone who has \*never\* attempted to write a song in their life. The exercises and techniques here are really limiting if you want to write something that's not out of the 1800s. If you're already comfortable in your songwriting process, you do not need this book. Even if you aren't, you still don't need this book. This was an incredibly disappointing purchase.

Taking Pat Pattison's Songwriting course now. Not only is this book helpful for songwriting, I think it also gives some great insights for authors and poets as well.

Very thorough and great tips that I use frequently. Changed the way I view lyrics and I approach songwriting differently, in a good way. If you're interested in the craft, this will help.

Enjoying this book,LOTS of GOOD tips!

Some good points it will probably be beneficial

I've written songs for years. This is a great book for songwriters of any level.

," Great book lets you think about the work in new ways

Songwriting son very happy with this book. He says his writing has improved. He read some of his newest writing to me and I am impressed.

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