

This Free E-Book is brought to you by [Natural-Aging.com](http://Natural-Aging.com).

**100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment**  
**Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances**  
**Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!**

**Why Not Become a Jester?**

**By Stephanie West Allen**

**Why Not Become a Jester? by Stephanie West Allen**

Publishing Guidelines:

You have permission to publish this article as long as the resource box (bio) is included. Please let me know of its publication by sending either a website link or a courtesy copy of your publication to <mailto:Stephanie@allen-nichols.com>

Thank you very much.

-----MORE THAN DONKEY EARS

Why in the world would a person want to become a jester? The word "jester" conjures up the image of motley clothes and a floppy hat that originally represented the ears of a donkey.

The jester is much more. The jester has a rich tradition in history. That being was the high-spirited character who graced the king's court long ago and had permission to speak the truth -- a truth for which others might be beheaded.

The jester had a unique kind of wisdom. Sometimes it wandered alone outside the king's court, interacting with the people in the towns and countryside. Those interactions with the jester left people somehow moved, if only to increase their smiles and laughs.

**LEAPING OUT OF FISHBOWLS**

Some who write about culture have likened a person's culture to a bowl of water in which a fish swims. The fish (if it could talk) may not be able to describe the water and yet the water is very influential on the daily life of the fish. We are the same when it comes to our culture, our values, our biases.

The jester can move in and out of the fishbowl. This is part of what makes it so funny. The true comic holds a mirror up so we can look and laugh. The mirror shows our inconsistencies, our faults, our tragic seriousness. The jester (and the comic) could not do this if it did not remove itself often from the fishbowl.

## Why Not Become a Jester?

By moving in and out of the fishbowl, the jester has an independence. It can choose when to swim in the water and when to breathe in the air of freedom outside.

### AD-JEST YOUR ATTITUDE

Being a jester is a state of mind. it doesn't matter how you dress or where you are or what you do. You can be a jester anywhere because being a jester is an attitude.

The jester can create new worlds at will. The jester crosses boundaries and dissolves limitations. The jester revels and dances in a state of freedom and courage. The jester holds nothing, and everything, as sacred. The jesters are still around. They are among us and their numbers are growing.

The jester is important to any organization with the goals of increased creativity, productivity and teamwork; and reduced stress, boredom and conformity. Bringing a light heart and wisdom, the jester also makes the best kind of friend, spouse, employee, employer, or fellow citizen of your neighborhood, city, country or world.

### BECOMING A JESTER

A jester must have three skills.

The first skill the jester needs is a sense of humor. A fine and enormous sense of humor. The Jester lives in the Comic Zone, not the Drama Zone.

The second skill a jester needs is the ability to adjust to whatever comes up. The jester can hop, skip, work, and play through life because of his or her skill in adjusting to the unforeseen and unplanned.

The third skill a jester needs is to "make believe." He or she says: "In this situation (this day, this life), I think I need to be like this," and then creates and becomes that "this." The jester "makes believe" until one day he or she wakes up having truly become the person imagined before.

Let's begin to enlarge the jester ranks.

And today . . .

Start a Jester Journal. Make it sturdy. This Journal is meant to become dog-eared, written in, carried around, color crayon-ed, eaten over, played with.

Pretend today that you are outside of the fishbowl. Observe things. Maybe imagine that you are a visitor from another planet. In your mind, question everything you see. Ask "why?" Ask "why?" again. And then ask "why?" some more.

Why is that clothing the appropriate dress for this situation? Why is this music being played now? Why is the meeting being held here? Why is she sitting at her desk instead of on the floor or in a park? Why is this program on television? Why am I watching it? Why are there no animals in this setting? Why did

## Why Not Become a Jester?

I have that for breakfast? Why are people doing this? Why is this in the newspaper? Write your observations in your Jester Journal.

And then write new ways you would like to see things be. Use much playfulness. Dogs, puppets, and ant farms in the workplace. Meetings in amusement parks. Hokey Pokey in the street. Cookie-handlers standing on street corners handing out cookies to passing cars. Singing at power lunches.

More miming, less talking. Frequent standing ovations by those standing in line in banks or post offices or grocery stores. People carrying crayons with them at all times and drawing pictures on any appropriate paper — napkins, the tabs for restaurant meals, what else? Flutes and harmonicas and bells being played in abundance on buses.

Begin to make some of these new ways happen.

Have fun and write it all down in your Jester Journal. The more you write, the more your imagination will think of new whys and new ways.

And the more you will grow in your jesterhood.

©Copyright 2002 Stephanie West Allen

Stephanie West Allen, JD, brings humor and motivation to organizations.<http://www.allen-nichols.com>  
Subscribe to her Upsy Daisy Daily newsletter with a vitalizing message each morning, Monday through Friday. Send a blank e-mail to <mailto:UpsyDaisyDaily-subscribe@egroups.com>

### **How to Write Bad Poetry**

**By Stephen Earley Jordan, II**

#### **How to Write Bad Poetry**

by: **Stephen Earley Jordan, II**

So you've decided to crown yourself with a title that a million other people (just like you (yes, just like you!)) give themselves every day. Some people believe giving yourself such a title is equivalent to, and just as beneficial monetarily, as naming yourself Queen of England. But, there is no grace, rarely enough publicity, and only the title of Court Jester seems to be becoming for you because you are a fool among others.

What is this sacred title? Poet.

Why does titling yourself a "poet" make you a Fool? Well, it doesn't, not in and of itself. But if you've only been published online, never in print—that could be a sign of your well-earned Fool status. To be blunt—that is a sign that you write bad poetry.

## Why Not Become a Jester?

Why would these sites accept your work if it sucked, you ask? Maybe to raise their quota, maybe to get more submissions of the site's particular interest, but mainly to actually HAVE something to post—most (but not all) sites are desperate for submissions. Or maybe they're out for a profit. Come on, who among us HASN'T had something accepted by the National Library of Poetry, and then gotten all the brochures for expensive products featuring our work?

The Webmaster vs. Editor Problem: Go to any website, check it out. Can you find someone with the title of Webmaster? How about editor? Or, still yet, Webmaster AND Editor? A Webmaster does not, by any means, mean Editor. Simply because someone is a webmaster (someone who controls the site, updates the postings, etc. . . ) does not mean that the person is an EDITOR (someone who corrects the work, proofreads, re-writes, re-words, etc..) of the work posted on the site. In many cases, webmasters who are disguising themselves as editors are giving real editors a bad name. A webmaster, will too often post submissions "as is" and not give a damn about the content or presentation. However, if a site has someone who can both edit and be a webmaster then the site is moving in the right direction.

This is the main problem source. Building a website, and getting work "published" on a website is so easily done by anyone whether they have talent or not that it de-values the word "published" and lessens the role of an Editor.

Granted, the internet IS a great marketing tool for promoting your work, getting your name in the public's eye, and getting writing experience, but have you ever asked yourself why your work is ONLY published online? Perhaps it is because no discerning EDITOR has ever seen your dribbly poems, except in browsing the web for bad poems to laugh at.

Here are a few tips that will help you to get your work published online. Hey, I figured if you're going to be a fool about getting your unpolished work published on the internet for the world to see, I'd give a few tips to help your bad poetry stay that way, since you seem to like that way best:

Place the word "Love" in your title. That's a major plus!

Be straight-forward, don't use symbols, metaphors or anything that will make the reader think. Readers don't have time to think.

Focus on form—(sonnets, villanelles, haiku). Since you think in form, write in form.

Keep your poem in a rhyme-scheme. Why? Well, EVERYONE knows that all GOOD poems rhyme, the rest can be disregarded as a post-modern mess!

Only write in YOUR point of view. Write exactly what you believe, never try to portray the image of someone else. Better yet, start the poem with "I".

Keep your poems untitled. Readers love to be creative and imagine what the title should and could be.

Write in the same place. If you write in your bedroom—always write there; if you write outside under a

## Why Not Become a Jester?

tree—always write there—why try variety and ruin a good thing?

Don't ever base a character in a poem on someone you actually KNOW. Heaven forbid you get the piece published, and have to explain to the person—"this is you".

Read, but if you don't like a poem or a poet—just toss it. Don't even question why you don't appreciate the work.

Have no structure. Poetry is about limitless expressions, right? So in that sense, make your lines and stanzas as long as you wish. Just write exactly how you feel!

Don't keep a journal. Journal causes too much self-reflection and you want to write for the moment, not yesterday.

Use clichés as much as possible. People like to read familiar phrases.

Not every line of a poem is important. Just make sure you have a good first and last line.

14. Poems don't progress, that's the difference between a story and a poem. Poems aren't suppose to take you on a journey to learn.

Submit your poems to only websites. That way, you will never have to face the fact that your poetry SUCKS, because it will only be read by the friends and relatives to whom you give the site's URL, and your friends will never tell you that reading your poetry is greater torture than letting a small, sharp-clawed guinea pig walk on their sunburned skin.

If you follow these guidelines, and start writing, you will be a "poet" in no time. Remember that poetry HAS to rhyme, and remember that the less you practice the better you are.

Joking aside—you might want to try doing exactly opposite of the "tips" in the list. And, since many webmasters (who are titling themselves Editor) aren't doing their job, it's up to you to learn to edit your work before you embarrass yourself.

(This article is not commenting that ALL online poetry is not well-crafted. But the poorly crafted poetry far outweighs the well-written by a landslide.)

Stephen Jordan, a Medical Editor in Greenwich, Connecticut, currently lives in New York City, has five years experience within the educational publishing industry. Stephen was a freelance editor with such educational foundations as Princeton Review, The College Board, New York University, and Columbia University. Away from the office, Stephen promotes his creative writing, painting, and his home-based freelance business OutStretch Publications. Stephen holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in writing and literature from Alderson-Broadus College of Philippi, West Virginia.

Why Not Become a Jester?



This Free E-Book has been brought to you by [Natural-Aging.com](http://Natural-Aging.com).

**100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment**  
**Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances**  
**Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!**