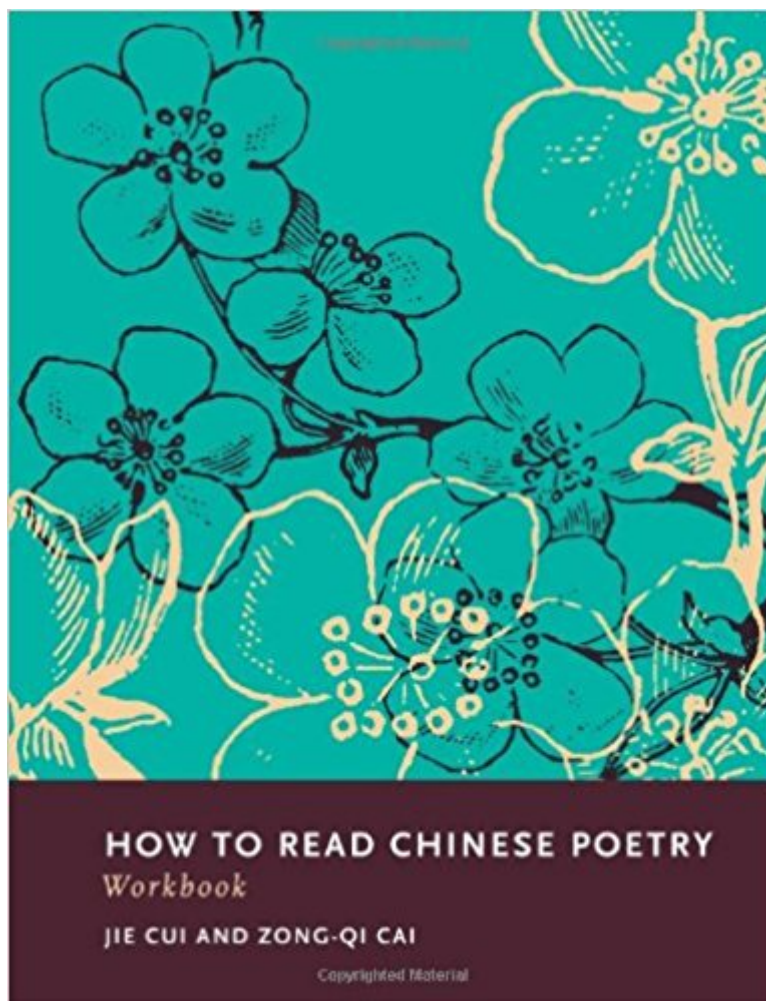


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How To Read Chinese Poetry Workbook



Synopsis

Designed to work with the acclaimed course text *How to Read Chinese Poetry: A Guided Anthology*, the *How to Read Chinese Poetry Workbook* introduces classical Chinese to advanced beginners and learners at higher levels, teaching them how to appreciate Chinese poetry in its original form. Also a remarkable stand-alone resource, the volume illuminates China's major poetic genres and themes through one hundred well-known, easy-to-recite works. Each of the volume's twenty units contains four to six classical poems in Chinese, English, and tone-marked pinyin romanization, with comprehensive vocabulary notes and prose poem translations in modern Chinese. Subsequent comprehension questions and comments focus on the artistic aspects of the poems, while exercises test readers' grasp of both classical and modern Chinese words, phrases, and syntax. An extensive glossary cross-references classical and modern Chinese usage, characters and compounds, and multiple character meanings, and online sound recordings are provided for each poem and its prose translation free of charge. A list of literary issues addressed throughout completes the volume, along with phonetic transcriptions for entering-tone characters, which appear in Tang and Song  regulated shi poems and lyric songs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Personally, this book is just what I needed. No matter how much one admires Chinese verse in translation, gaining a close exposure to the original texts produces a different variety of meaningful and powerful experiences. I had been in touch with Zong-qi Cai while reading the book this

workbook accompanies (note my January 18, 2010 review of it) and I encouraged something along these lines because of my frustration with wanting to gain a better appreciation of the poems themselves in the original. While I was grateful for that book, I'm dumbstruck by this one and expect it to be my bedside companion for years. These hundred Chinese gems are laid out so neatly - like an anatomy textbook, the clean layout enables a glimpse toward the possibility of much more profound explorations. No matter how much these poems have moved me, I still feel in orbit at too great a distance from them, but I can't imagine any better way to get closer to them than what this workbook accomplishes. I only wish this treatment had already been given to most of the great works of Chinese poetry, literature and philosophy. Those seeking an introduction to Chinese poetry and ready to embrace it in the original will be well served by starting with this workbook and then considering whether to invest in the greater breadth and depth of its parent "How To Read Chinese Poetry." In addition to what is in the workbook already, the authors have created a Facebook page and invite readers to suggest improvements. I can speak to their sincere willingness, having helped encourage this workbook into existence myself. Certainly the exercises could be improved by years of classroom use and feedback and I believe this book merits that degree of intensive academic use.

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