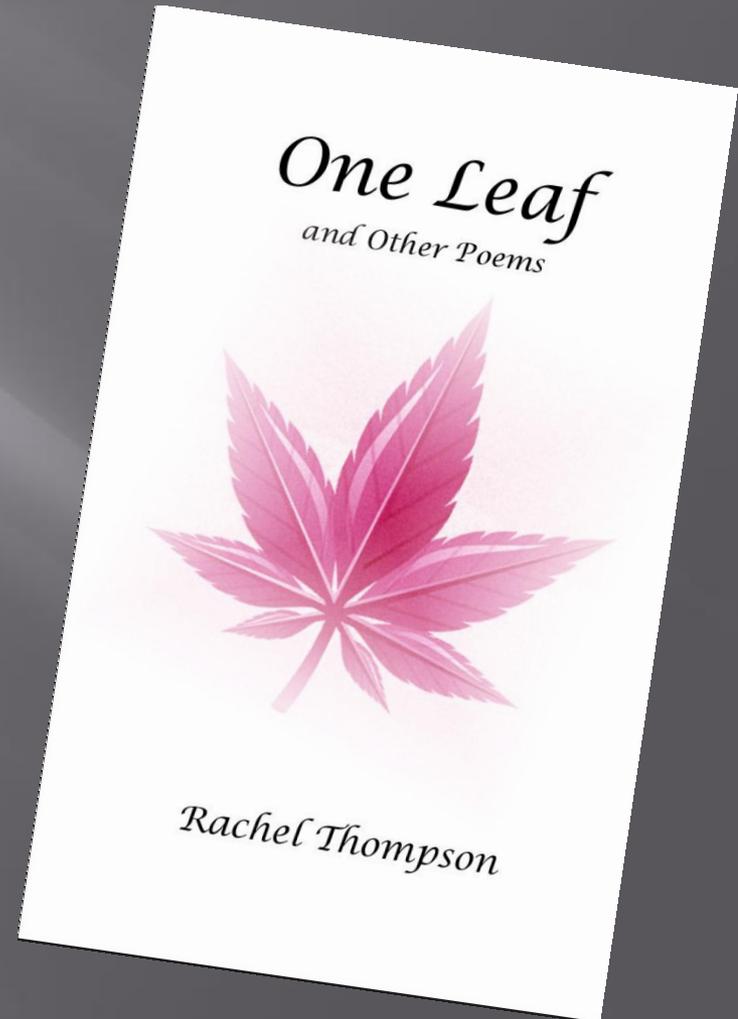


# SUBMITTING YOUR BOOK TO A PUBLISHER

An Author's Guide

# So you want to submit a book to a publisher?

- ▣ You are thinking of sending your book to a publisher?

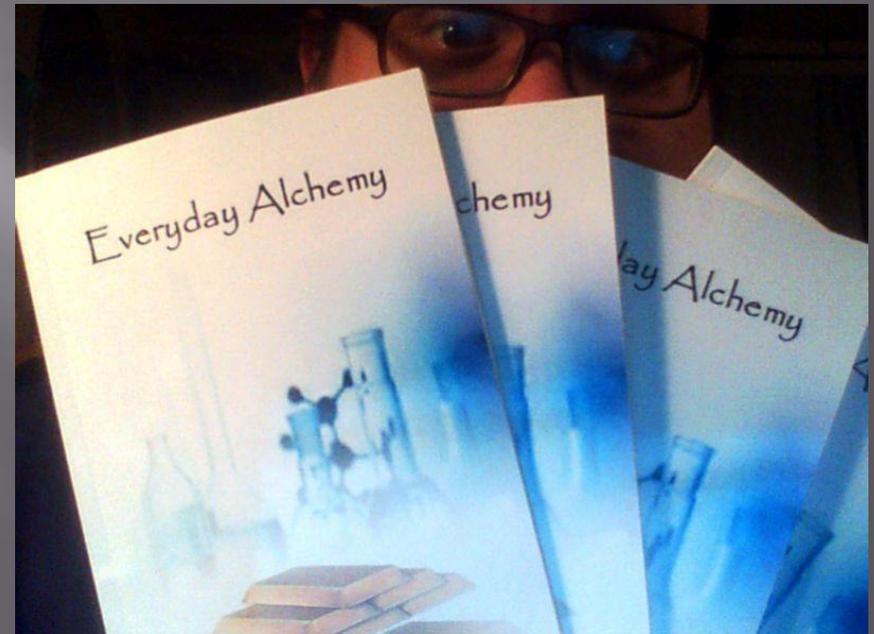


# Congrats are in order!

- ▣ Over 95% of started books, whether poetry, fiction or non-fiction never see the completion of their first draft.
- ▣ Of the 5% that see their first draft, over 80% are never submitted anywhere.

# A Few Questions Before We Start

- ▣ Are you sure your book is ready?
- ▣ Have pieces of it been published before?
- ▣ Have you had others take a look at it and give feedback?

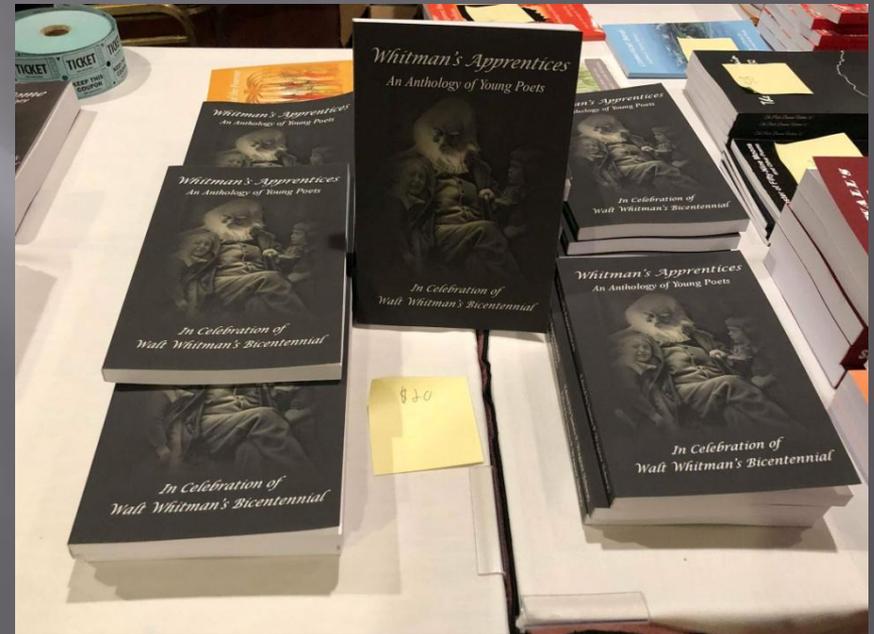


# Not All Publishers Are Created Equally

- ▣ Like lawyers there are many different types of publishers
- ▣ Some take poetry, some take fiction, non-fiction. Some take a combination, some only take sub-genres of the above.
- ▣ The days of broadcasting, aka, sending your manuscript everywhere are long over — you need to narrowcast, aka, hyper-focus.

# Are The Publishers Open For Submissions?

- ❑ Some publishers are always open for submissions.
- ❑ Some only have submission periods.
- ❑ Some don't take unsolicited manuscripts at all.



# What publishers are you familiar with?

- ▣ Do you have any existing relationships with a publisher?
- ▣ Do you frequently buy books from a particular publisher?
- ▣ Have you published individual bits of writing in projects a publisher has had?



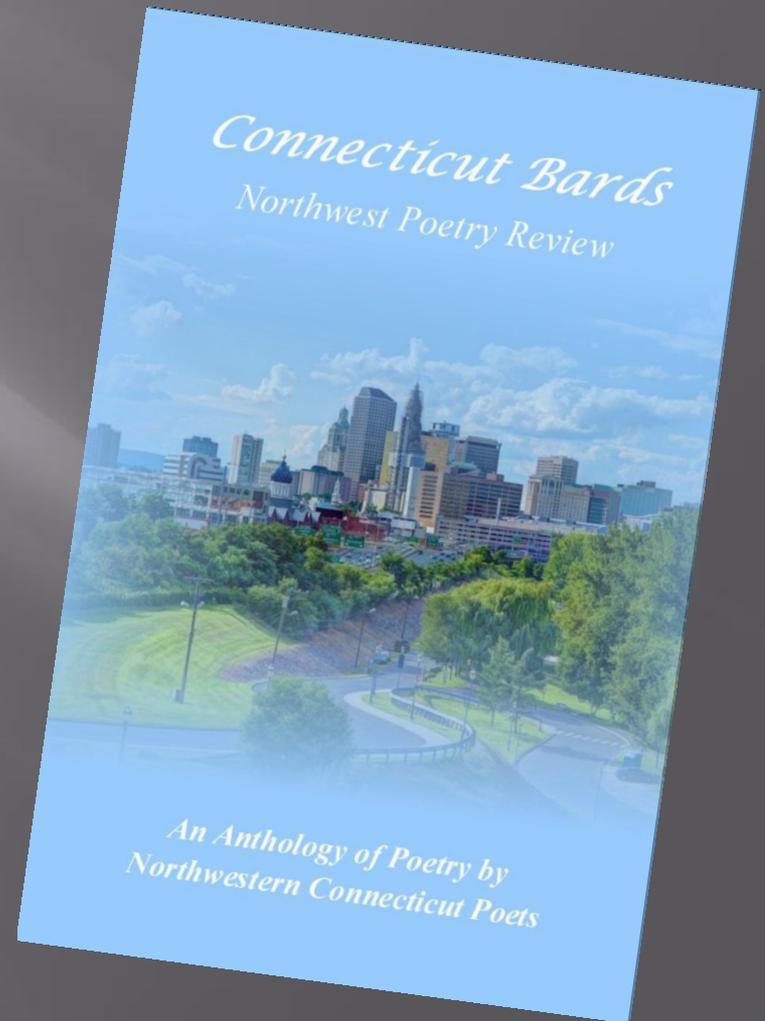
# Publishing Is A Partnership

- ❑ Publishing is a partnership between the author and the publisher, as such, the relationship is the most important factor.
- ❑ Build a good relationship with a publisher, your chances increase 10 fold.



# Do They Have Other Projects?

- ▣ Do the publishers you are seeking to take your work have other projects?
- ▣ Anthologies?  
Magazines? Journals?  
Contests?



# Become Familiar With Their Other Publications

- ▣ If they have magazines, anthologies, or contests, submit to these.
- ▣ Know who is in charge of them, do your research on what kind of things they accept.
- ▣ If you happen to get into some of these other projects with smaller pieces, publishers are more likely to consider your manuscripts.

# Treat It Like An Interview

- ▣ You would prepare for a job interview, so, prepare for submitting your book.
- ▣ Make sure you have your relevant references in a row for them to review
- ▣ Have relevant work to show
- ▣ Explain to them why they should want to work with you.

# Parts of Submission

- ▣ Cover Letter
- ▣ Biography
- ▣ Manuscript
  
- All of these vary based on the publisher's individual submission guidelines.



# Cover Letter

- ▣ A typical cover letter includes who you are, why you are interested in the publisher, what you are offering, and a little bit about yourself.
- ▣ Use this time to let the publisher know you have done your research
- ▣ Don't make the cover letter too long or it won't get read.
- ▣ Don't make it too short, or it won't be taken seriously
- ▣ Follow individual publisher guidelines.

# Biography

- ▣ Include a paragraph about yourself
- ▣ Any writing experience, previous publications
- ▣ Anything about why you are qualified to write the book you have written

# Manuscript Format

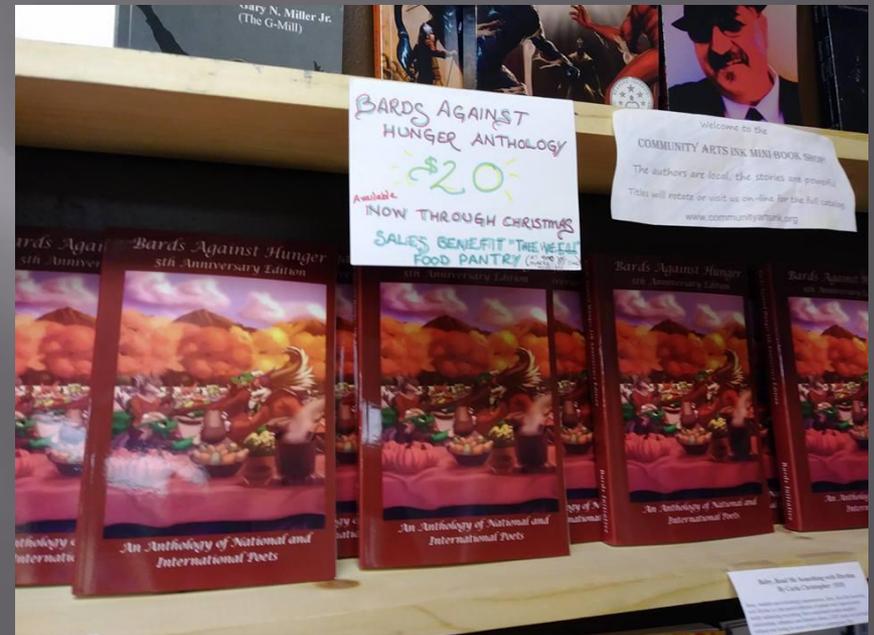
- ▣ Can vary based on the publisher.
- ▣ Standard Manuscript Format:
  - Typical manuscript format for fiction and non-fiction is Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced.
  - For poetry, Times New Roman 12 point font, single-spaced.
  - Standard 8 x 11 computer pages.
  - Include a TOC (Table of Contents)

# Follow Directions

- ▣ There are a lot of publishers with a lot of different preferences.
- ▣ One-size-fits-all is not a good approach.
- ▣ Check their guidelines and their directions and follow them.

# Recomendations?

- ▣ “It’s not what you know it’s who you know?”
- ▣ Being recommended to a publisher by someone they know can push you up to the top of the pile.
- ▣ Agents? A possibility with fiction or non-fiction, in most cases doesn’t really exist in poetry.



# Why Might This Publisher Want To Take Your Book?

- ▣ Remember publishing is a partnership
- ▣ What does your book bring to the table?
- ▣ What do you bring to the table?
- ▣ Do you have a network of fans?
- ▣ Do you already go on tour and give readings?
  
- ▣ Anything of this nature can help.

# Things That Will Get You Rejected

- ▣ Submitting To The Wrong Publisher
- ▣ Not following directions
- ▣ Copy-paste submitting
  
- ▣ Unprofessional cover-letters.