

Website Platform Comparison Quick Guide

For Poets Creating a Simple Blog or Website

Use this chart to help you decide which platform is the best fit for your poetic vision, budget, and tech comfort level.

Platform Overview Table

Platform	Monthly Cost Range	Ease of Use	Creative Control	Great For	Limitations
WordPress.com	Free – \$15/month	Beginner-Friendly	Moderate	Poets who want to start quickly	Custom domain & full features require upgrade
WordPress.org	~\$4–\$15 (hosting)	Intermediate	High	Poets who want full ownership/control	Requires setup, separate hosting
Squarespace	\$16–\$23/month	Very Easy	High	Poets who want visual elegance	Slightly higher learning curve for advanced features
Wix	\$14–\$18/month	Easy	High	Poets who like drag-and-drop builders	Can become cluttered if over-customized
Weebly	\$6–\$12/month	Very Easy	Moderate	Poets who want something fast & basic	Less design flexibility
Substack	Free	Very Easy	Low	Poets who want a newsletter-style blog	Not ideal for a full-featured website

Poet-Focused Questions to Ask

- Do I want full control over how my poems appear online?
- Would I prefer a drag-and-drop experience or more structured layout?
- Am I comfortable managing hosting or would I rather let the platform handle it?
- Do I want room to grow into newsletters, event calendars, and audio recordings?

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🌟 GPS Recommendations by Type of Poet

Poet Type	Best Match	Why
<i>New to websites, no tech skills</i>	WordPress.com or Weebly	Simple setup, low commitment
<i>Wants full creative freedom</i>	WordPress.org or Wix	Great design control + plugin flexibility
<i>Wants beautiful visual layout</i>	Squarespace	Clean templates, minimal styling needed
<i>Just wants to send out poems via email</i>	Substack	Built-in email/newsletter support

📦 What Each Platform Typically Includes

Feature	WordPress.com	WordPress.org	Squarespace	Wix	Weebly	Substack
Free Plan Available	✓	✗ (hosted only)	✗	✓	✓	✓
Custom Domain	🔒 (Paid plan)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blog/Post Feature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Contact Form	✓	Plugin needed	✓	✓	✓	✗
Audio Support	🔒 (Paid only)	✓ (via plugin)	✓	✓	✓	✓ (newsletter embed only)
Newsletter Plugin	🔒 (Mailchimp)	✓	✓ (Built-in)	✓	✓	✓ (Core Feature)

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Final Thoughts

💡 “There’s no perfect platform—just the one that best supports how you want to share your voice. Start simple, grow as you go.”

- You can always start with WordPress.com or Substack, then upgrade later.
- Squarespace is often preferred by visual poets, artists, or photographers.
- If you're going to sell books or merch, consider platforms with e-commerce add-ons (WordPress.org, Squarespace, or Wix).

Suggested Use:

- Upload this PDF to your “Worksheets & Resources” page
- Print and offer at live workshops or events
- Add to your course’s welcome kit or bonus materials