

**Poetry Driver**  
**(A young poet protests revision to his mentor)**

I write a poem, then, of course,  
revise, revise, revise.  
I watch the poem change its tone  
before my very eyes.

You can't expect your written work  
to have much quality,  
if you just write and let it stand;  
that's just frivolity.

When I was young a teacher said:  
*your first thoughts are your best.*  
So why won't my first version be  
much better than the rest?

It simply doesn't work that way;  
improvements can be made.  
Through editing and diction checks  
the weaknesses will fade.

When I play golf, and club meets ball  
the ball goes where it will.  
I have to live with what I did,  
regardless of my skill.

Comparing golf and poetry  
somehow makes me think  
that failing to revise will put  
your tee shot in the drink.

OK, OK, I guess you're right,  
but I know I'd be proud  
to back a poet's rule that said:  
*No mulligans allowed!*

Edward W. Lull