Five Tips On Writing A Poem by Jane Yolen

1. Look at the world through metaphor, seeing one tree in terms of another.
2. Let two words bump up against another or seesaw on a single line.
3. Tell the truth inside out or on the slant.
4. Remember that grammar can be a good friend and a mean neighbor.
5. Let the poem rhyme in the heart, though not always on the page.

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Eagle Feather Fan

The eagle is my power,
And my fan is an eagle.
It is strong and beautiful
In my hand. And it is real.
My fingers hold upon it
As if the beaded handle
Were the twist of bristlecone.
The bones of my hand are fine
And hollow; the fan bears them.
My hand veers in the thin air
Of the summits. All morning
It scuds on the cold currents;
All afternoon it circles
To the singing, to the drums..

N. Scott Momaday

The Gourd Dancer Harper & Row 1976