

Press Release  
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During his appearance on the fourth episode of the new Internet authors' roundtable Titlepage.tv, Edward Hirsch, the poet and President of the Guggenheim Foundation vigorously appealed to poetry writers--and everyone else--to dedicate more time to reading.

Invited by Titlepage.tv to talk about his latest work, "Special Orders", Hirsch's appeal came upon hearing a statistic offered by Titlepage.tv's host, Daniel Menaker: at some point in their lives, 70% of Americans write poetry.

"I would like to make that bridge for those 70 percent of the people to understand that if they read they can get something of the same hit, and something of the same feeling and something of the same consolation, as articulated by others. And if all those writers became readers, literature would be in a much healthier place in the United States," Hirsch said. This passion for literature on his part has many aspects notably in his widely praised book "How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry."

Adding to Hirsch's plea, Meg Wolitzer, another guest on the program, and the author of "The Ten-Year Nap" said : "You could not say that 70% of the people *read* poetry. *That* would be an amazing statistic." And she added, "There is a need now more than ever to make the case for why we should read. And that's what I feel: we have to wear the sandwich board for fiction and poetry."

Both comments were made during the taping of Titlepage's upcoming episode: **Inside Out**, which is scheduled to go online on April 21.

Joining Hirsch and Meg Wolitzer on this program are bestselling author Elizabeth Strout ("Olive Kitteredge") and debut novelist and renowned literary blogger Mark Sarvas ("Harry, Revised.")

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