

## **What do you read, my lord? Words, words, words.**

Marius Crous, Inaugural lecture, 22 August 2024.

The title of the lecture is taken from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and the two key words *read* and *words* form the basis of this lecture. In the academic context we are constantly busy with words, not only as literary scholars but even as scientists. At first I will comment on reading as a search for meaning, the notion of multiple interpretations and illustrate this briefly in the context of literary analysis. Subsequently, I will focus on my interest in creative writing both as lecturer and poet and talk about the poet as reader. Why does the poet read? What does he read? I will also refer to examples from my own four collections of Afrikaans poetry (in translated form) as illustrations.