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October 24, 2018

Dear Colleague,

The Jackson District Library is pleased to announce the fifteenth annual, **“Poets Among Us: Young Poets Contest 2019.”** With nearly 12,000 student entries during the first fourteen years, this event has proven to be very successful with students, teachers and parents. Over the years, entries have been received from entire classrooms, as well as students participating on their own who have a love of poetry. Poems have covered subjects as diverse as animals, divorce, hard times, family fun, friendships, sunsets, and war, to name just a few. I would like to thank you for your past support and encourage your participation in this year’s program.

The contest is open to all students in grades Kindergarten through 12 and all home-schooled students in **Jackson County**. Included in the attached information is a list of websites for teachers and descriptions of various types of poetry. This packet also contains the necessary materials and forms to allow you to incorporate the contest into your schedule including the **Student Rules and Registration Form** to be completed by each student. (One form must accompany each poem submitted.) Please note that entries must be submitted online or postmarked by **February 1, 2019**.

A panel of poetry judges will review all the entries submitted. We will publish the award-winning poems in a small booklet and on our website. In addition, the top poets in each grade level will be given the opportunity to read their poems at the Young Poets Awards program to be held in April 2019.

Please encourage **all** of your students to enter the contest. Every poem is a possible winner, and the members of our Poetry Panel will enjoy reading all the poems they judge. **The poems will become the property of the Library and will not be returned, so please be sure that your students retain copies of their submission.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Rhonda Farrell-Butler at (517) 788-4099, ext. 1317 or butlerr@myjdl.com**, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Thank you, again, for all your assistance in making the Young Poets Contest such a success. We deeply appreciate your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Sara Tackett, Director

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Elli Blonde, President; Beverley McGil, Vice President; William Jors, Secretary/Treasurer; Heather Albee-Scott, Jacqueline Barber; Shane LaPorte;

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## YOUNG POETS 2019 CONTEST GUIDELINES

### Contest Rules

1. Any student enrolled in grades K-12 in a Jackson County school and any home-schooled student in Jackson County may enter the contest.
2. **Poems must be the original work of the student** and may be written on any subject **except Their Name and/or school**, but must be only **one page** (maximum of 500 words) in length. **No art work should accompany the poem, nor should the poem be pasted on colored paper.**
3. Poems must be **typed or written neatly**. (Preferably on 8 ½ x 11 paper, except for primary students.)
4. The student's **NAME, GRADE, and SCHOOL must** appear on the **back side of the page** of the poem. (**No** identifying information should appear in the poem or on the poem side of the page.)
5. Each poem must have a student registration form (**signed by parent or guardian**) stapled to the **upper left-hand corner** of the poem.
6. Each student may submit only **one** poem.
7. Poems may be submitted through a **school, a library, or online at [www.myjdl.com](http://www.myjdl.com)**.
8. **All poems become the property of the Jackson District Library and will not be returned. Please keep a copy of the students' poems.** The Jackson District Library retains the first rights for publication of prize-winning poems.
9. All poems must be **postmarked by February 1, 2019** and received within one week of that date.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES MAY RESULT IN A STUDENT'S DISQUALIFICATION.**

### Prizes

1. **Four winning entries** (First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention) will be chosen for each grade level.
2. **Student authors of the winning entries** will receive a prize, a certificate, a ribbon, a copy of the **Young Poets 2019** booklet and an autographed copy of a book by our guest poet. In addition, they will be asked to read their poems aloud and receive their prizes at the **Young Poets Awards program to be held in April 2019.**

### Judging

1. Members of our Poetry Panel will judge the poems.
2. Poems will be judged by grade level.
3. Poems will be scored on the basis of creativity, vocabulary, quality of verse (rhythm, meter, word choice, wordplay, imagery, etc.) and creative expression.
4. Decisions of the judges are final.
5. Winning entries for the contest will be announced in March 2019. The Young Poets Awards program will be held in April 2019.



**MAIL POEMS TO:**  
**YOUNG POETS 2019**  
**Jackson District Library**  
**Attn: Rhonda Farrell-Butler**  
**244 W. Michigan Ave.**  
**Jackson, MI 49201**

**Young Poets Contest 2019**  
**STUDENT RULES AND REGISTRATION FORM**

1. You may submit only ***one*** poem, which is **no longer than one page and 500 words**.
2. Write your own, *original* poem. **DO NOT COPY ANY PART OF SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK.** **This is plagiarism and you will be disqualified.**
3. **Please do not use your name or school in your poem as this identifies you to the judges.**
4. Type or print your poem neatly on 8 ½" x 11" paper. **NO ARTWORK, PLEASE.**
5. Put your name, grade, and school name on the **back side of the page** of your poem. (No identifying information should appear in the poem or on the poem side of the page.)
6. Fill out the registration form at the bottom of this page. Have your parent or guardian sign it. **Cut it on the dotted line and staple it to the upper left-hand corner of your poem.**
7. **Submit your poem to your teacher (or librarian) to be postmarked by February 1, 2019.** Poems may also be submitted at ***www.myjdl.com***.
8. Prizes will be awarded to each grade level, Kindergarten – 12.
9. Poems become the property of the Jackson District Library and ***WILL NOT BE RETURNED.*** **Please keep a copy of your poem.** The Jackson District Library retains the first rights for publication of prize-winning poems.
10. Winning entries will be announced in March 2019.
11. **Each first, second, third place and honorable mention winner will receive a prize, a certificate, a ribbon, a copy of the Young Poets 2019 booklet and an autographed copy of a book by our guest poet at the Young Poets Awards program to be held in April 2019. Student authors of the winning entries will be asked to read their poems aloud at the program.**



**YOUNG POETS 2019: REGISTRATION FORM**

Please PRINT or TYPE, except for parent/guardian signature.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

POEM TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

LIBRARY BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent or Guardian)



## Suggested Websites for Teachers 2019

2018 Notable Poetry Books Selected by the NCTE Award for Excellence in Children's Poetry Committee  
[http://www2.ncte.org/app/uploads/2017/06/2018\\_Notable\\_Poetry\\_Books.pdf](http://www2.ncte.org/app/uploads/2017/06/2018_Notable_Poetry_Books.pdf)

*A selected list of poetry books to be shared with children.*

Articles about Children's Poetry <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children/articles>

*Articles about Children's Poetry and additional resources from the Poetry Foundation.*

Kenn Nesbitt's Poetry4Kids <http://www.poetry4kids.com/>

*Kenn Nesbitt is the former U.S. Children's Poet Laureate (2013-15). Here you will find lots of funny poems and poetry books for children, classic children's poetry, games, poetry lessons and activities, plus a rhyming dictionary, videos, and lots more.*

Josie's Poems, Web Index of Articles

<http://www.josiespoems.webeden.co.uk/website-index/4531904671>

*A helpful list of lessons and tools to better instruct students on the different functions that make poetry a unique form of literature.*

Kalli Dakos <http://www.KalliDakos.com>

*Kalli Dakos, "Poet of the School World" is a former teacher and reading specialist who celebrates the school world. Her website features school themed poems and interactive stories featuring your students.*

Poetry Writing With Jack Prelutsky: A Writing With Writers...

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activities/teaching-content/>

Jack Prelutsky, Poetry Foundation

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/jack-prelutsky>

*Activities to promote poetry and fun.*

Poets.org, Poems for Kids <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poems-kids>

*An excellent resource of diverse and engaging poems on topics such as Black History Month, Friendship, and Myths and Fairytales... just to name a few.*

Reading Rockets, Top 10 Resources on Poetry

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/top-10-resources-poetry>

*Explore how to introduce poetry to young readers, the value of nursery rhymes in learning about language, writing poetry in the classroom, great poetry books for sharing, and interviews with beloved children's poets.*

## Suggested Websites for Teachers 2019

Poetry Out Loud, Teaching Resources <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/teaching-resources>

*Geared more for the pre-teen and teenage blossoming poets of our community, this website contains material for teachers to jumpstart their students into writing and performing poetry with such useful links as lesson plans, NCTE and Common Core standard, and teacher preparation.*

Shel Silverstein, Learning Resources <http://www.shelsilverstein.com/learning/>

*Whether you're reading Shel Silverstein's poems with your children, using his books to celebrate Poetry Month, or planning a Shelebration® event at your home, school, or library, this website has the resources you need to engage kids in Shel's extraordinary world.*

Tips for Teaching Poetry <https://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/tips-teaching-poetry>

*Suggests a number of creative and inexpensive ways to bring poetry into the classroom.*



## PLAGIARISM ALERT

**Plagiarism is a great concern!** If we were to choose a poem as a winning entry and then find out it had been plagiarized, it would be an embarrassment to all concerned. The judges will be reading hundreds of poems and cannot be expected to recognize any poems that may have been copied, so we are asking for your help.

Plagiarism is the act of stealing or copying the ideas or words of others to use as one's own without giving credit to the original source. **PLEASE** explain to your students what plagiarism is and how serious an offense it is. We have to guess that some students do not really understand what plagiarism is and that copying someone else's work is a serious offense. What they submit should be their own, original creation.

We know that you have a lot of responsibilities and duties, but we would appreciate your assistance in addressing this issue with your students. For our part, if we have questions about the authenticity of any submission, we will check it against the poetry sources and our literature database for possible plagiarism.

**Thank you for your support in this important matter.**

## TYPES OF POETRY

**Acrostic** - a poem where the first letter of each line spells a word that can be read vertically.

**Alphabet** - Each line begins with the letters of the alphabet in order; a, b, c, d.

**Ballad** - a ballad is a story song that often has a refrain or chorus and set to music.

**Cinquain** - a type of poetry in which the first line has one word, the second has two words describing the first line, the third line shows action with three words, the fourth line has four words that convey feeling, and the fifth line refers to line one.

**Color** - A poem about your favorite color. Express your feelings about a single color with analogies or similes or list nouns which are (or remind you of) that color. Another easy form is to use the 5 senses-looks like, sounds like, smells like, tastes like, feels like.

**Diamante** - The Diamante is a form similar to the Cinquain. The text forms the shape of a diamond.

**Epitaph** - See the anti-smoking poems at Poetry Teachers  
<http://www.poetryteachers.com/poetclass/lessons/smokepoem.html>.

**Free Verse** - poetry that is written material freed from paragraph form and has rhythm, but no rhyme.

**Haiku** - the haiku is a three lined Japanese poem about nature. This particular type of poetry has a limit on the amount of syllables you can have for each line. The first line always has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. The third line has the same amount as the first line.

**I Wish** - Each line of the poem begins with the words "I wish" and then you fill in your ideas.

**Limerick** - a limerick is humorous nonsense verse consisting of a triplet and couplet, making it a five line poem. Lines one, two, and five are the triplet and rhyme. The third and fourth lines form a rhyming couplet.

**Monster Poem** - Describe an imaginary monster. Try to have a theme (food, sports, animals, school subjects etc.)

**Rhyming** – Couplets, triplets, and quatrains are made up of two, three, and four lines. These poems are often silly and have a rhythm with the last words in each line rhyming.

## CRITERIA CHART FOR JUDGING POETRY

The Poetry Panel has provided us with this chart as an example of the criteria that is used for reviewing poetry entries. Poetry contestants may find it helpful to use these when writing their poetry.

### CRITERIA:

- **Theme** – does the poem give readers a specific idea or perspective on a subject?
- **Originality** – does the poem offer a new or different way of thinking or feeling about that idea?
- **Language** – are the words precise and does their arrangement create a unified impression? Are the sounds appealing: is there rhyme (for instance, alliteration, consonance, internal rhyme, end rhyme, slant rhyme) and is there a rhythm (or beat)?
- **Imagery** – does the poem use figurative language (simile, metaphor) to create a vivid description and appeal to readers' senses and imagination?
- **Impact** – does the poem evoke an emotional response from readers?
- **Technical details** – are spelling and usage appropriate to the poem's subject? (Sometimes a poet captures a style of speech by manipulating spelling).

