

Free Student Poetry Contest

Official Rules

Eligibility: The Student Poetry Contest is open to all students enrolled in grades 3-12 (including home schooled and tutored children), regardless of experience or previous publication, except where prohibited. Employees and agents of The America Library of Poetry and their immediate families are ineligible and may not enter. Each entrant may submit one poem of no more than 20 lines on any subject, and in any style except concrete (shape poems) or black out poems (marker covering another author's text to create a poem) provided that the content of the poem is not vulgar or offensive, does not employ profanity, and is the original, individual work of the entrant. All submissions become the property of The America Library of Poetry and will be considered for publication in a forthcoming anthology and may appear on this website. Entrants retain copyright on his/her own individual work. Submissions by multiple entrants may be mailed together in one package to save on postage.

All entries sent by mail must include completed [entry form](#).

All entries sent via website must include completed [online form](#).

Entrants must complete the entry form in its entirety to qualify for the contest and may submit **no more than one poem per contest**.

Contest Dates: The Student Poetry Contest is ongoing. Entries are accepted year-round and placed in the contest most current at the time of their receipt. Each contest states a deadline of April 30th. The next contest begins the following day.

Selection: Poems are judged based on originality, creativity, and artistic quality. Poems not meeting the requirements for line limitation are automatically disqualified. Poems containing profanity, vulgarity or offensive material are automatically disqualified.

Prizes: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners are selected in each of four divisions (Division 1 - Grades 3-5, Division 2 - Grades 6-7, Division 3 - Grades 8-9, and Division 4 - Grades 10-12). Each winner will receive a cash prize and Certificate of Achievement. The writer who places first overall receives the Editor's Choice Award, and a \$500.00 cash Grand Prize. Prizes are also awarded by random drawing, based on participation and not artistic ability, to encourage all students to pursue literary endeavors. These awards consist of a new Laptop Computer, Tablet, or iPod Touch, a "School's Out" Shopping Spree, one of ten Gift Cards. Top Educator Awards are one of ten Laptop Computers, Netbooks, Chromebooks, or Tablets. Spirit of Education Award winning school will receive a new computer package and a trophy suitable for the school's display case. In the event of a tie, duplicate prizes will be distributed.

Decisions: The panel of judges consists of members of The America Library of Poetry Review Committee. All decisions made by the judges are final.

Fees: There are no entry fees for any of the contests. No purchase necessary. No financial obligation to enter or win the contests.

Copyrights: The author retains all copyrights to the submitted poem. Winning poems will appear on this website with the copyright notice intact and may be published in a forthcoming anthology. By entering the contest, you consent to the publication of your poem if it is selected as a winning entry for the grade division.

Notification: Winners are announced every September 30th. Winners are notified by phone, email, or standard mail. Names of the winners and their respective poems may appear on this website.

Privacy Policy: The America Library of Poetry collects personal information for the purpose of notifying contest winners. All information submitted is kept in confidence, and used solely for notification purposes and shall not be made public by The America Library of Poetry. The America Library of Poetry does not lease, sell, or share personal information collected. Minor children must have parental permission to enter the contest.

Legalities: No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Sponsored by The America Library of Poetry. All rights reserved. All information provided herein pertains to the 2017 contest. This information may update or change for future contests.