

# **Ligonier Valley Writers presents the 31st annual Student Poetry Contest**

**Categories A-C are open to students in Grades 4-6.**

**A. Kathleen Brittain and Paul Spencer Poetry Award**

*Grades 4-6: Rhymed Verse, any subject.*

***Sponsored by Paul S. Brittain***

**B. Glenda Busch Memorial Award**

*Grades 4-6, Unrhymed Verse, any subject*

***Sponsored by Jim Busch***

**C. Henry Clay and Gladys Maas Pruitt Memorial Award**

*Grades 4-6: Haiku, any subject*

***Sponsored by Candy Green***

**Categories D-F are open to students in Grades 7-9.**

**D. Highview Farm Award**

*Grades 7-9, Traditional Verse, any subject*

***Sponsored by Sally Shirey in memory of Barb and Lou Steiner***

**E. Shirey Poetry Award**

*Grades 7-9, Free Verse, any subject*

***Sponsored by Sally Shirey in memory of Barb and Lou Steiner***

**F. Ogden Nash Award**

*Grades 7-9, Light Humorous Verse, any subject*

***Sponsored by Anita Staub***

**Categories G-I are open to students in Grades 10-12.**

**G. Dr. Len Roberts Memorial Award**

*Grades 10-12, Traditional Verse, any subject*

***Sponsored by Ruth McDonald***

**H. Hayden Savinda Memorial Award**

*Grades 10-12, Free Verse, any subject*

***Sponsored by Ronald J. Shafer***

**I. Marie Martin Memorial Award**

*Grades 10-12, Romantic Love Poetry, any subject*

***Sponsored by Phil and Mary Lou Fleming***

**In Categories A-I, first prize is \$25, second prize \$20, and third prize \$15.**

**The John L. Naccarato Memorial Award**

The winners of three poems chosen as the best of the best in each grade group receive \$30 each.

***Sponsored by Michele Jones***

## **CONTEST RULES**

**Deadline: March 11, 2022**

- 1. Eligibility.** Open to all students in grades 4-12 in southwestern Pennsylvania.
- 2. Limit.** One entry per student in each category. A maximum of 20 lines per poem. For haiku (three lines long), up to three poems may be submitted, all on one page.
- 3. Deadline.** Entries must be postmarked by March 11, 2022.
- 4. Qualifications.** Entries must be the contestant's original work and must not have won a prize in any other contest or been published.
- 5. Format.** a. Each poem must have a title. b. The poem must be typed or clearly written on one side only of white 8.5" by 11" paper. c. Staple your filled-out entry form to the back of the poem. d. The student's name should appear on the entry form only, NOT on the poem itself. e. Send only one copy of each submission.
- 6. Winning Poets.** Winners will be notified in April. If possible, prizes will be presented at an awards ceremony at the Greensburg Barnes & Noble at 4:00 p.m. on a Saturday in April. The list of winners will be sent to local media and posted on [www.LVWonline.org](http://www.LVWonline.org) after the ceremony. Please check the website near the date to see whether the ceremony will be held or prevented due to Covid-19.
- 7. NO POEMS WILL BE RETURNED.**
- 8. Publication rights.** Ligonier Valley Writers retains the right to first publication of prize-winning poets. Authors retain all other copyrights.
- 9. NOTE TO TEACHERS:** Please communicate all rules to your students. Students must choose their own topics, and all poems must be in good final form. Large batches of unedited poems will not be read. You may want to conduct your own class poetry contest and have your students select the top entries to submit to this contest.  
Parents and guardians: You may sponsor your child's entry by filling in the "Teacher" information on the entry form.

### **Poetry Judging Criteria**

1. Aptness of title.
2. Impact (powerful effect).
3. Effectiveness and meaning.
4. Universality (unrestricted fitness).
5. Imagery.
6. Suitability (appropriateness to contest category and age level.)
7. Continuity of theme.
8. Craftsmanship (aptness of phrase, freshness of rhyme, economy of words, rhythmic quality, appropriate mechanics, grammar).

**Poetry Contest Entry Form**  
**Must be filled out completely.**

1. Complete a form for each entry. Please write legibly.
2. Print a copy of the poem **without** the entrant's name.
3. Staple a completed entry form to the back of the poem and **mail it by March 11, 2022**, to:  
Student Poetry Contest  
Ruth McDonald  
409 Sheffield Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601

\_\_\_\_\_  
Poet's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent, Guardian, or Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent, Guardian, or Teacher Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Phone Number or Parent/Guardian Phone Number

**Grade 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 [Circle the poet's grade.]**  
**Category A B C D E F G H I [Circle.]**  
**Limit: One entry per student in each chosen category.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Poem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Poet

**Ligonier Valley Writers**  
**PO Box B, Ligonier, PA 15658**  
[www.LVWonline.org](http://www.LVWonline.org)