

**Ligonier Valley Writers presents
the 32nd annual Student Poetry Contest**

CONTEST RULES

Deadline: March 11, 2023

This year LVW is accepting submissions via email only.

Please do not snailmail printed copies of poems.

See Rule #8 below for details.

- 1. Eligibility.** Open to all students in grades 4-12 in southwestern PA.
- 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.
- 3. Qualifications.** Entries must be the contestant's original work and must not have won a prize in any other contest or been published.
- 4. Winning Poets.** Winners will be notified in April. Prizes will be presented at an awards ceremony at the Greensburg Barnes & Noble at 4:00 p.m. on a Saturday in April. Winning poets will have a chance to read their poems to the audience. The list of winners will be sent to local media and posted on www.LVWonline.org after the ceremony.
- 5. Publication rights.** Ligonier Valley Writers retains the right to first publication of prize-winning poets. Authors retain all other copyrights.
- 6. 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 providing your contact information on the entry form email.

7. Poetry Judging Criteria

- a. Aptness of title.
- b. Impact (powerful effect).
- c. Effectiveness and meaning.
- d. Universality.
- e. Imagery.
- f. Suitability (appropriateness to contest category and age level.)
- g. Continuity of theme.
- h. Craftsmanship (aptness of phrase, freshness of rhyme, economy of words, rhythmic quality, appropriate mechanics, grammar).

8. Format.

Email your poem to Judith Gallagher, contest coordinator, at jgallagher@LHTOT.com. Please send your poem as a **Word document attached to an email**. The **subject line** of your entry must include the words "**LVW Student Poetry Entry.**" Do NOT include your name at the top of the Word document.

Instead, put your poem on page 1 of the Word attachment. Then scroll down to page 2 to include all the information from the contest entry form below.

Your submission will be acknowledged by an email from LVW within 10 days. If you do not receive acknowledgment of your submission, please check your spam folder. Then email either jgallagher@LHTOT.com or anitagrillo@live.com to let us know.

Student Poetry Contest Entry Form

Poet's Name _____

Home Address _____

City and Zip Code _____

Parent, Guardian or Teacher _____

Parent, Guardian or Teacher Email Address _____

Parent or Guardian Phone Number _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

School Phone Number _____

Grade 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 [Circle poet's grade.]

Category A B C D E F G H I [Circle poem's category.]

Limit: One entry per student in each chosen category.

Title of Poem _____

Signature of Poet _____

Student Poetry Contest Categories

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 - Sponsored

by Jim Busch

Grades 4-6, Unrhymed Verse, any subject

C. Henry Clay and Gladys Maas Pruitt

Memorial Award - Sponsored by Candy Green

Grades 4-6: Haiku, any subject

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

The John L. Naccarato Memorial Award

Three winners, one for each poem chosen as the best of the best in its grade group (G4-6, G7-9, G10-12). *Sponsored by Michele Jones*

In Categories A-I, first prize is \$25, second prize \$20, and third prize \$15. For the Naccarato Award, the prize is \$30.