

Number	Entry	Category	Registration Requirements
102	Poetry Writing	Early Entry, Non-Performance	Sign up on student registration form. Submit for pre-judging. Dates on website.

RULES

Theme: Evangelistic, Biblical, Christian, Patriotic, or Historical

Length: 8 – 30 lines (Variations from these line limitations must show evidence of very careful attention to work, choice and structure, plus a strong thematic basis.)

Format: The poem may be a lyric poem, a folk ballad, a literary ballad, or a narrative poem typed on plain white paper.

-One entry per contestant.

-The poem must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism of any kind will automatically disqualify the entry.

-The contestant should keep in mind his purpose for the poem--why it is being written and what effect is being achieved.

HINTS FROM THE POETRY WRITING JUDGES

Judges look for poems that are neat in appearance, complete in thought, and effective in message and impact. The true purpose of a poem is to transmit in words a complete thought and yet, at the same time, to move emotions. A poem must have a reason for existence; the emotional impact and a resultant change in attitude is that reason. If your poem is correct in form, yet is not logically correct or emotionally stimulating, the poem will not score well. A poem must DO something, not merely talk about something. The theme, then, becomes of utmost importance, for if the poem is to do something, it must do something worthwhile. Secondary, but still important, is the form of the work. If the form is weak or inconsistent, it will not fall correctly on the ear, causing the message to be lost to the reader. Poems should also have a lyric quality, though they may not be intended for music. One more important point: a poem can only do ONE thing, not several. Strive for unity of purpose and skill of execution. Refer to other reference sources for ideas.

JUDGING CRITERIA

POSSIBLE POINTS

I. Theme - An evangelistic, inspirational, Biblical, Christian growth, patriotic, persuasive or historical poem has one central idea; unity in viewpoint

20

II. Use of Poetic Material (60 points possible)

A. Shows feeling, sincerity, conveys emotion

10

B. Original, fresh use of words; avoids triteness

10

C. Meter is regular, without jolting variations. Rhythm is smooth. Rhyme, if used, is generally good.

15

D. Uses poetic devices such as imagery, figures of speech, symbolism, parallelism.

15

E. Creativity and individuality of expression

10

III. Mechanics (20 points possible)

A. Neatness, general appearance

5

B. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar (subject – verb agreement. Unusual grammar is acceptable if it used as a poetic device and is effective as such)

15

Total Points 100

NOTE: As many as 10 points may be subtracted if poem is not 8 to 30 lines in length and is not typed on plain white paper.