

(102) POETRY WRITING, Early Entry (Due April 1)

RULES

1. Contestant writes an original poetry composition with a Christian, patriotic, biblical, evangelistic, or historical theme. The contestant should keep in mind his purpose for the poem--why it is being written and what effect is being achieved.
2. The poem may be a lyric poem, a folk ballad, a literary ballad, or a narrative poem.
1. Poem should be between eight and thirty lines and be typed on plain white paper. (Variations from these line limitations must show evidence of very careful attention to work, choice and structure, plus a strong thematic basis.)
3. The poem must be the original work of the student.
4. Plagiarism of any kind will automatically disqualify the entry.
5. One entry per contestant.

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

AREAS OF EVALUATION	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.