



JACKSON
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A PLACE TO DISCOVER

244 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201
Phone: 517-788-4099
Fax: 517-788-6024
www.myjdl.com

November 18, 2019

Dear Colleague,

The Jackson District Library is pleased to announce the 16th annual, **Poets Among Us: Young Poets Contest 2020**. Entries have been received from both individual students as well as entire classrooms, demonstrating Jackson County's students' love of poetry. The nearly 13,000 student entries have covered a range of subjects; from family fun, animals and friendships to hard times, divorce and war. I would like to thank you for these past 15 years of support and encourage your participation in this year's program.

The contest is open to all students in grades Kindergarten through 12 as well as all homeschooled students in **Jackson County**. The top poets in each grade level will be given the opportunity to read their poems at the **Young Poets Awards** program to be held in April 2020.

Please encourage all of your students to enter the contest. Every poem is a possible winner, and the members of our Poetry Panel will enjoy reading all the poems they judge.

Please note that entries must be submitted online or postmarked by **February 14, 2020**.

The poems will become the property of the Library and will not be returned, so please be sure that you and your students retain copies of their submission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Rhonda Farrell-Butler at (517) 788-905-1317 or butlerr@myjdl.com**.

Thank you for making the **Young Poets Contest** such a success. We deeply appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sara Tackett, Director

YOUNG POETS 2020 CONTEST GUIDELINES

Contest Rules

1. Any student enrolled in grades K-12 in Jackson County as well as any home-schooled students in Jackson County may enter the contest.
2. Each student may submit only one poem.
3. All poems must be postmarked by **February 14, 2020.**
4. Poems must be the original work of the student and may be written on any subject with the exception of:
 - a. The author's name
 - b. The author's school
5. Poems must be typed or handwritten neatly.
6. Poems for grades K – 8 must be no more than **one page** (500 words max).
7. Poems for grades 9 – 12 may be up to **two pages** (1000 words max).
8. Poems should be on 8 ½ x 11 plain paper (no artwork, construction or colored paper, please).
9. The author's name, grade and school **MUST** appear on the **back** of the poem, not the front. (No identifying information should appear in the poem).
10. Each poem must have a student registration form, signed by parent or guardian, attached to the poem.
11. Poems may be submitted through a Jackson County School, any branch of the Jackson District Library, online at www.myjdl.com or by email to youngpoets@myjdl.com
12. All poems become the property of the Jackson District Library and will not be returned. Please keep a copy of the student's poem. The Jackson District Library retains the first rights for publication of the prize-winning poems.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION



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Prizes

1. Prizes may be awarded for each grade in the following categories: First, Second, Third and Honorable Mention.
2. Student authors will be asked to read their winning entries and their prizes will be awarded at the Young Poets Awards program in April 2020.
3. Winning student authors will receive a prize, certificate, ribbon, a copy of the Young Poets 2019 booklet and a title chosen by the Young Poets Committee.

Judging

1. Winning entries are selected by a panel of poetry judges.
2. Entries will be judged by grade level.
3. Entries will be scored on the basis of creativity, vocabulary, quality of verse (rhythm, meter, wordplay, etc.) and creative expression.
4. Winning entries will be announced in March 2020.
5. Judges decisions are final.

Poems should be mailed to:

Young Poets 2020
Jackson District Library
Attn: Rhonda Farrell-Butler
244 West Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201



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Student Rules and Registration Form

1. **Grades K – 8** may submit **ONE** poem, up to one (1) page or 500 words.
2. **Grades 9 – 12** may submit **ONE** poem, up to two (2) pages or 1000 words.
3. Submit an original poem. **DO NOT COPY ANY PART OF SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK.**
This is plagiarism and will disqualify you.
4. **Please do not use** your name or your school's name in your poem – these are identifying factors.
5. Type or handwrite your poem neatly. **NO ARTWORK PLEASE.**
6. Put your **name, grade, and school name** on the **BACK** of your poem – no identifying information should appear in the poem or on the front of the page.
7. Fill out the Young Poets 2020 Registration Form **completely**. A parent or guardian must sign the form.
8. Submit your poem to your teacher or a librarian (poems must be postmarked by **February 14, 2020**). Poems may also be submitted online at www.myjdl.com or emailed to youngpoets@myjdl.com
9. Upon submission, poems become the property of the Jackson District Library and **WILL NOT BE RETURNED** (please keep a copy of your poem).
10. Winning submissions will be announced in March 2020.



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Young Poets 2020: Registration Form

NAME: _____ **GRADE:** _____

POEM TITLE: _____

SCHOOL: _____ **SCHOOL PHONE:** _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____ **TEACHER'S EMAIL:** _____

LIBRARY BRANCH: _____

STUDENT'S HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ZIP:** _____

STUDENT'S EMAIL: _____

STUDENT'S PHONE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____
(Printed)

PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____ **DATE:** _____
(Signature)

Once submitted, all poetry become the property of the Jackson District Library, who retains first publishing rights.



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Class/Group Submission Sheet*

GROUP/LIBRARY/SCHOOL NAME:

ADDRESS:

SUBMITTER'S NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

Number of Students Submitted from Your Location

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of Entries</u>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
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<hr/>	<hr/>
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***This sheet is for submitting groups or whole classes.**



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Helpful Sites 2020

2018 Notable Poetry Books Selected by the NCTE Award for Excellence in Children's Poetry Committee

[http://www2.ncte.org/app/uploads/2017/06/2018 Notable Poetry Books.pdf](http://www2.ncte.org/app/uploads/2017/06/2018%20Notable%20Poetry%20Books.pdf)

A selected list of poetry books to be shared with children.

Articles about Children's Poetry

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children/articles>

Articles about Children's Poetry and additional resources from the Poetry Foundation.

Kenn Nesbitt's Poetry4Kids

<http://www.poetry4kids.com/>

Kenn Nesbitt is the former U.S. Children's Poet Laureate (2013-15). Here you will find lots of funny poems and poetry books for children, classic children's poetry, games, poetry lessons and activities, plus a rhyming dictionary, videos, and lots more.

Josie's Poems, Web Index of Articles

<http://www.josiespoems.webeden.co.uk/website-index/4531904671>

A helpful list of lessons and tools to better instruct students on the different functions that make poetry a unique form of literature.

Kalli Dakos

<http://www.KalliDakos.com>

Kalli Dakos, "Poet of the School World" is a former teacher and reading specialist who celebrates the school world. Her website features school themed poems and interactive stories featuring your students.

Poetry Writing With Jack Prelutsky: A Writing with Writers...

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activities/teaching-content/>

Jack Prelutsky, Poetry Foundation

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/jack-prelutsky>

Activities to promote poetry and fun.

Helpful Sites 2020

Poets.org, Poems for Kids

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poems-kids>

An excellent resource of diverse and engaging poems on topics such as Black History Month, Friendship, and Myths and Fairytales... just to name a few.

Reading Rockets, Top 10 Resources on Poetry

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/top-10-resources-poetry>

Explore how to introduce poetry to young readers, the value of nursery rhymes in learning about language, writing poetry in the classroom, great poetry books for sharing, and interviews with beloved children's poets.

Poetry Out Loud, Teaching Resources

<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/teaching-resources>

Geared more for the pre-teen and teenage blossoming poets of our community, this website contains material for teachers to jumpstart their students into writing and performing poetry with such useful links as lesson plans, NCTE and Common Core standard, and teacher preparation.

Shel Silverstein, Learning Resources

<http://www.shelsilverstein.com/learning/>

Whether you're reading Shel Silverstein's poems with your children, using his books to celebrate Poetry Month, or planning a Shelebration® event at your home, school, or library, this website has the resources you need to engage kids in Shel's extraordinary world.

Tips for Teaching Poetry

<https://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/tips-teaching-poetry>

Suggests a number of creative and inexpensive ways to bring poetry into the classroom.



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PLAGIARISM WARNING

Plagiarism is a great concern! Please explain to your students what plagiarism is and how serious an offense it is. What they submit should be their own, original work.

If we have questions about the authenticity of any submission, we will check it against the poetry sources and our literature databases for possible plagiarism.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



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TYPES OF POETRY

Acrostic:

A poem where the first letter of each line spells a word that can be read vertically.

Alphabet:

Each line begins with the letters of the alphabet in order; a, b, c, d.

Ballad:

A ballad is a story song that often has a refrain or chorus and set to music.

Cinquain:

A type of poetry in which the first line has one word, the second has two words describing the first line, the third line shows action with three words, the fourth line has four words that convey feeling, and the fifth line refers to line one.

Color:

A poem about your favorite color. Express your feelings about a single color with analogies or similes or list nouns which are (or remind you of) that color. Another easy form is to use the 5 senses-looks like, sounds like, smells like, tastes like, feels like.

Diamante:

The Diamante is a form similar to the Cinquain. The text forms the shape of a diamond.

Epitaph:

See the anti-smoking poems at Poetry Teachers

<http://www.poetryteachers.com/poetclass/lessons/smokepoem.html>

Free Verse:

Poetry that is written material freed from paragraph form and has rhythm, but no rhyme.



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Haiku:

The haiku is a three lined Japanese poem about nature. This particular type of poetry has a limit on the amount of syllables you can have for each line. The first line always has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. The third line has the same amount as the first line.

I Wish:

Each line of the poem begins with the words "I wish" and then you fill in your ideas.

Limerick:

A limerick is humorous nonsense verse consisting of a triplet and couplet, making it a five line poem. Lines one, two, and five are the triplet and rhyme. The third and fourth lines form a rhyming couplet.

Monster Poem:

Describe an imaginary monster. Try to have a theme (food, sports, animals, school subjects etc.)

Rhyming:

Couplets, triplets, and quatrains are made up of two, three, and four lines. These poems are often silly and have a rhythm with the last words in each line rhyming.



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Criteria for Poetry Judging

The Poetry Panel provided this information as an example of the criteria used for reviewing poetry submissions. Poetry contestants should use this chart as a guideline when creating their work.

Theme:

Does the poem give readers a specific idea or perspective on a subject?

Originality:

Does the poem offer a new or different way of thinking or feeling about that idea?

Language:

Are the words precise and does their arrangement create a unified impression? Are the sounds appealing: is there rhyme (alliteration, consonance, internal rhyme, end rhyme, slant rhyme) and is there a rhythm (or beat)?

Imagery:

Does the poem use figurative language (simile, metaphor) to create a vivid description and appeal to readers' senses and imagination?

Impact:

Does the poem evoke an emotional response?

Technical Details:

Are a spelling and usage appropriate to the poem's subject? Sometimes a poet captures a style of speech by manipulating spelling, which is acceptable.