

NASHVILLE READS POETRY CONTEST

Poetry Contest Information

This contest is free and open to all middle and high school students. Contest dates are January 9, 2023-February 11, 2023. Submissions must be received by 11:59PM on Saturday, February 11, 2023. Submissions after that date and time will not be accepted.

The Nashville Reads committee will review submissions from February 13-21, 2023, and a winner will be selected by February 22, 2023.

All participants will be asked to attend the closing ceremony. The winners will be announced at the Nashville Reads closing ceremony to be held on Saturday, February 25, 2023.

Your poems should be about the impact of books and what the world would look like without them. Be sure to include the value and importance of books to you and society. Think about your favorite book and how you would feel if it were banned and taken away forever. How would banning books affect our world?

Poetry Contest Rules

- The poem, in its entirety, must be an original work by the student entering the contest.
 - Plagiarism is a serious, punishable offense.
- Only one poem per student.
- Poem must be one of the following styles:
 - Limerick
 - Sonnet
 - Ode
 - Elegy
 - Epic
 - Blank Verse
 - Free Verse
- All poems must be written in English.
- Contest entries must follow the stanza for the poem style.
 - Poems in general must be at least 3 but cannot exceed 26 lines (including stanza breaks) and cannot exceed 55 characters per line (including spaces between words). Any submission that exceeds these limits will be automatically disqualified. The poem title does not count as a line.
- Do not use “texting” lingo. Properly spell out all words and numbers.
- Poems containing language that is vulgar, offensive, or wholly inappropriate will not be accepted.
- To ensure proper lineation, please use the “Enter” key to start a new line, indicating all intentional line breaks.
- Do not include your name or any other information at the end of your poem.

Submission

Link to submission form on the Nashville Reads website. Please be sure to enter all the information requested.

<https://forms.gle/dV9Ra28ak6uQ4NVH9>

Prizes

The winners will receive a certificate and a gift card to Parnassus Book store plus writing journals. Their poems will be published on the Nashville Reads website along with pictures and general information about the student.

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Judging

Contest entries are judged based on poetic style, technique, effectiveness, and creativity. Entries should include use of poetic devices and follow specific styles to be judged accordingly.