



## POETRY WRITING SCORING GUIDE

Contestant # \_\_\_\_\_

Requirements: Entrants will compose a poem of at least eight lines on a provided prompt or theme (50 minutes). Best handwriting and double-spacing is required.

Judging: Rate each criterion using the 1(lowest) to 5 (highest) scale. Tally the points for a total score.

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Ideas</b>	The author is just figuring out what to say. Poem lacks a central focus or main idea. Descriptions need fuller development.		Poem presents a fairly standard theme with some attempt at original perspective. Topic could be narrowed for greater impact.		The poem's theme is clear, focused, with an original point of view.
<b>Organization</b>	The poem has little direction or sense of order. Verses fail to connect to each other.		Poem has an obvious structure and order. Ideas could be better integrated and connections clearer.		Poem grabs reader with strong beginning. Ending is satisfying and insightful. Images strongly connect to each other and logically develop the ideas.
<b>Voice</b>	Poem lacks energy, feeling, and personal commitment to topic. No audience is apparent.		Poem shows some attempt to establish a personable voice that connects to an audience and shows poet's comfort with poetic form.		Clearly speaks to the reader in a unique style. Poem has personality. Author cares about the topic and writing rings with confidence.
<b>Poetic Techniques</b>	Lacks imagery, illusions, or metaphors. Rhythm is difficult to discern; line breaks appear arbitrary or awkward.		Attempts to incorporate imagery, metaphor, illusion, and other poetic devices to create a satisfactory poem. Lines flow generally well with good sense of line breaks.		Shows strong use of language and variety in poetic techniques. Imagery is creative and original. Understanding is enhanced by carefully structured line breaks.
<b>Word Choice</b>	Vague or misused words cause fuzzy reading; trite use of vocabulary; obvious redundancy.		Key words carry the meaning; repetition establishes threads and/or clarifies. May use a few clichés but words are appropriate for context and level of formality.		Original and creative use of vocabulary. Just the right word in the right place adds to appreciation of topic and images evoked; strong verbs set pace and energy to the writing.
<b>Conventions</b>	Needs much more careful editing; too many punctuation and spelling errors; poor formatting.		Shows an adequate control of punctuation and paragraphing; may have a few spelling or grammatical errors.		Free of errors. Shows careful editing for correctness and usage.

**TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_