

Queens Borough Public Library

Poetry Contest 2021

Rules

1. Entrants must live or attend school in New York State, but cannot be employees of the Queens Borough Public Library (the “Library”) or Queens Public Library Foundation.
2. Only one entry per person is allowed. In the event that one person should submit multiple or duplicate entries, only the entry first received will be accepted, with all others being rejected and disqualified.
3. The submitted poem must be the author’s original work. Plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification. Only the author of the poem can submit his/her poem and poems may have only one author. By submitting an entry to this contest, entrant agrees to grant the Library a non-exclusive license to publish the submitted poem, including on its website and other online platforms.
4. The submitted poem must reflect the theme of what the Library means to you. Poems must be in English and cannot be longer than 125 words, not including the title. **The author’s name should appear ONLY on the Entry Form.** Please double check spelling and punctuation before submitting your work, because typographical and grammatical errors will be considered by the judges.
5. Poems must be submitted online with the entry form completed in its entirety.
6. The contest is open to adults 18 and up.
7. The judging criteria will consist of the following elements and considerations:
 - a. *Style of Poetry* – Any style will be accepted (e.g., free verse, haiku, rhyme, or the like);
 - b. *Overall Impact* – The ability for the poem to etch itself into the reader’s memory;
 - c. *Beauty* – How colorful and descriptive is the author’s use of language;

- d. *Technical Excellence* - Whether the poem contains any grammatical errors, misspelled words, or the like;
 - e. *Organization* - The structure of how the thoughts are presented and whether the presentation is clear;
 - f. *Form and Flow*- The visual shape that the poem takes on paper.
8. The judges' decisions shall be final. No appeal shall be permitted of any determination regarding the merits of any submitted poem.
9. Entries will be accepted between April 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021. Late entries will not be accepted, but rather they will be disqualified as untimely and rejected. There will be three winners: first place, second place, and third place.
10. Each of three winners will receive a book bundle of five poetry books not to exceed \$150 in value.