

**YOUNG
WRITERS
CONTEST**

	Originality 1-4 points	Creative Expression: Non-Rhyming Poetry 1-4 points	Organization & Overall Impact 1-4 points	Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling 1-4 points
Distinguished (4 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme. - Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, in a unique voice or with an unexpected element. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader. - Poet demonstrates understanding of and uses a variety of poetic devices (alliteration, metaphor, simile, stanza, etc.). - Line length and line breaks have been considered and contribute to the poem. - Word choice is vivid and exact throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The writing demonstrates awareness of audience's needs. - The form of the poem is appropriate to the subject. - The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a potent way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is one or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling, appropriate to the subject. - Punctuation is utilized when necessary and appropriate or, if not used, is due to content/style choices, not errors, and meaning is not obscured.
Proficient (3 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is based on an original idea OR includes certain elements of originality, though 1-2 phrases or ideas may be revisited or underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is expressive, including some figurative language and/or detailed description. - Poet demonstrates a fair understanding and use of a variety of poetic devices (alliteration, metaphor, simile, stanza, etc.). - Line lengths and line breaks have been considered and mostly contribute to the poem. - Most word choices are precise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The writing demonstrates some awareness of the audience's needs. - The form of the poem is appropriate to the subject. - The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are one or two distracting grammatical or word choice errors.
Apprentice (2 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some evidence of original thought is present, but the writing is based on a common theme and does not include elements of originality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language, but needs improvement in order to engage the reader. - Poem uses limited poetic devices and/or does not demonstrate a broad understanding of their use in poetry. - Line length and/or line breaks seem rarely considered and do not contribute to the poem. - Word choices may be vague, repetitive, and/or imprecise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience's needs. - The form of the poem should be more appropriate to the subject. - The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject, but this is accomplished through clichés, worn-out images, or other predictable choices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are several distracting grammatical and/or word choice errors.
Novice (1 point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The writing feels like a retelling and has a common theme. Poem may be repetitive or feel rushed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Writing is very simple and lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader. - Poem uses no poetic devices or poet uses them ineffectively. - Line length and line breaks do not seem to have been considered. - Word choices are vague, repetitive, and imprecise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The audience does not seem to have been considered. - The form of the poem is not appropriate to the subject. - The poem does not enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject. No poetic devices are used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to numerous grammatical and word choice errors, the writing is difficult to understand.

Highest possible score = 16 points