



Poetry Contest



Sponsored by: Eastern Iowa Reading Council and Iowa Reading Association

Kindergarten – 12th Grade Guidelines

- Kindergarten and First Grade: Students may dictate poems to a person if a student's writing skills are being developed.
 - Second-Twelfth Grades: These students must write their own poems.
- Co-Authors: You can have co-authors (two or more students at the same grade level) write a poem.
 - This will be judged along with their respective grade level single author entries.
- One entry per student however **students may submit BOTH an individual poem AND a co-author poem. Students may also submit a short story entry.**
 - **The poem TITLE and student GRADE level must be on the FRONT page** of the poem.
 - Student's name should **NOT** be on the poem, only the entry form.
 - Poems must be **double spaced** and **typed**, unless using an unusual format.
 - **NO ILLUSTRATIONS!**
 - Poems must be free of spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors.
 - Poems will be judged according to: interest stimulated, response evoked, creativity and originality, conciseness of vocabulary creating an image, rhythm, and spelling - unless for effect and appearance.
 - One typed copy of the manuscript must be given to an EIRC officer OR mailed to the chairperson of the local poetry contest by the deadline.
 - **This copy will not be returned.**
 - Each student needs their own entry form attached to the poem, including co-authors.
 - Each poem submitted must have an entry form stapled to the back page with **all information filled out correctly**. Please include ALL parent names on the form. Please **type or print neatly with blue or black ink**. The entry form can be copied.
 - There will be NO STATE level creative writing contest this year.

Please be sure poems are typed and labeled correctly with all requested information!

Poetry entries must be *received* by **Wednesday, February 19, 2025.**

Please mail one copy of each correctly labeled poem to:

**Jana Sellers
St. Mary's School
132 West Butler Street
Manchester, IA 52057**

Please feel free to make copies of this form and encourage other teachers to participate! Membership of the Eastern Iowa Reading Council is not required to participate in this contest.

If you have any questions, please contact
Jana Sellers at St. Mary's School-563- 927-3689 or jsellers@st-marys.pvt.k12.ia.us

Judging will take place prior to March 1.

If you would like to help judge, please contact Jana or Nancy before Feb. 1 for more information.

Teachers of 1st-3rd place winning students will be notified no later than March 17.

The recognition night for first place winners is on Thursday, April 10, 2025.