



North Alabama High School 2018 Poetry Contest

Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the State of Alabama, the 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing and Huntsville's Importance in those Events

Purpose: The purpose of this contest is to recognize high school poets for excellence in poetry and to provide quality poems for use in lyrics for the music composition contest that will be conducted by the Huntsville Master Chorale (HMC).

The winning poetry and winning composers merged selections will be premiered in Huntsville on **May 3, 2019** at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in a concert conducted by HMC to include orchestral elements.

The goal of the poetry contest is to provide the opportunity for North Alabama high school students to find their own literary voices while celebrating the history of Huntsville, the State of Alabama or America's space program.

Who may enter: Any student enrolled in a city and county public or private high school, including home-schooled age students, in North Alabama for the school year 2018-2019 will be eligible. Evidence of enrollment may be required for the selected winners.

Judging: Judging will be accomplished by a joint committee of HMC and HMCPL. Personal information will be removed from each submission prior to judging.

1st Place - \$150

2nd Place - \$100

3rd Place - \$50

Honorable Mention:

- A "to be determined" group of poems will be selected after the contest winners are announced to be included in an anthology to be published by The Ardent Writer Press, Brownsboro, Alabama. Both winners and honorable mentions shall be included in the publication. Royalties from online sales of the book will be provided by The Ardent Writer Press to the Friends of the Library non-profit organization.

Entry Requirements: All submissions will be based on the historical events and themes Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the State of Alabama, the 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing and Huntsville's importance in those events.

- Contest is open from June 15, 2018 through September 15, 2018.
- All entries must be emailed to poetry@hmcpl.org
- Entry must be in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) and include: Name of Student, School, Grade, Title of Poem, Public School or Private School or Home School, telephone number, and both an email address (if available) and a residential address. Note: home school students must include their sponsoring private or parochial school.
- All poetry should be easily translated into musical compositions for the separate music contest managed by HMC. Students are discouraged from creating poetry with words or phrases that are not easily spoken as the winning selections will be used as the lyrics for musical compositions that will ultimately be used by HMC in their spring concert.
- Poetry should not be too lengthy as they will be set to music for voice and instrument.
- An example poem for students' reference is Robert Louis Stevenson's ***Flower God*** which was used by HMC's commissioned composer, Michael John Trotta, for their spring concert for 2018.

*Flower god, god of the spring, beautiful, bountiful,
Cold-dyed shield in the sky, lover of versicles,
Here I wander in April
Cold, grey-headed; and still to my
Heart, Spring comes with a bound, Spring the deliverer,
Spring, song-leader in woods, chorally resonant;
Spring, flower-planter in meadows,
Child-conductor in willowy
Fields deep dotted with bloom, daisies and crocuses:
Here that child from his heart drinks of eternity:
O child, happy are children!
She still smiles on their innocence,
She, dear mother in God, fostering violets,
Fills earth full of her scents, voices and violins:
Thus one cunning in music
Wakes old chords in the memory:
Thus fair earth in the Spring leads her performances.
One more touch of the bow, smell of the virginal
Green - one more, and my bosom
Feels new life with an ecstasy.*

- Plagiarism, **use of copyrighted material** or cheating, is unacceptable. Students should **be prepared to testify as to the originality of their submissions**. Any submissions with evidence of plagiarism will be disqualified.
- All winning and honorable mention poets (and parent/guardian if under the age of 18) must agree in written form to give up any rights to royalties from the sale of books including their

selection in the anthology. All royalties from such sales will go to the Friends of the Library, a non-profit organization. The publisher, The Ardent Writer Press, will provide free services to edit, format and publish the anthology and give up any rights to royalties for such sales to the Friends of the Library.