



Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc.

2023 Student Rules Contest

1. There is no entry fee for the MPS STUDENT CONTEST. The contest is open to all Mississippi students. First Grade – College Undergraduates. Public, private and homeschools are eligible.
2. Only one poem per student can be entered in this contest. Entries must be on regular white 8.5” x 11” paper, either computer-generated or typed and should not exceed 35 lines including title and space lines with no line having more than 60 characters including spaces and punctuation. Every poem entered should appear on a single sheet.
3. There should be no large or unusual fonts or illustrations. Time New Roman is the suggested font. No font larger than 12 point should be used.
4. There are 5 levels in this contest. **Level 1 (Fledglings)** encompasses Grades 1-3; **Level 2 (Taking Flight)** encompasses Grades 4-5; **Level 3 (Junior)** encompasses Grades 6-8; **Level 4 (Senior)** encompasses Grades 9-12; **Level 5 (Ascending Voices)** encompasses College Undergraduates.
5. Participants should submit two (2) copies of the poem with the following requirements. (a) The first copy must show the student’s name, mailing address, email address, school name, student grade level, student’s English/Language Arts teacher’s name and email address in the upper right corner, and level Name (Fledglings, Taking Flight, Junior, Senior, Ascending Voices) in the upper left corner. (b) The second copy must have the Level Name in the upper left corner, but no ID information. (c) Neither copy should have any markings other than those indicated above. (d) Do not staple the two copies of the poem together. (e) The first copy should include the “declaration of originality” (see item #8 below).
6. Place winners will be awarded a certificate and monetary prize of \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place, and \$20 for third place. Honorable Mentions will be awarded as merited. First, second and third place poems will be published in the annual MPS Contest Journal. Winners will be invited to read their poems at the annual MPS Spring Festival in April. Poems in Levels 3 and 4 may be entered into the National Federal of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) Manningham Trust National Student Competition as merited (we will provide winners with instructions on how to enter the Manningham Competition.)
7. There is a **postmark deadline of February 17, 2023**. Send entries to
Dr. Emory Jones
608 N. Pearl Street
Iuka, MS 38852
8. Each entrant must make a declaration of originality. The following statement should appear ONLY on the bottom of the FIRST copy. “I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or in part from any other author’s poems in print or posted on the internet.”

Signed: _____

Be sure to read the instructions carefully!

Should you have any questions, you may contact our contest coordinators:

Dr. Emory Jones
pianot@bellsouth.net

Jason Ervin
erwinjn@gmail.com

Good luck!!