



Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc.

## 2024 Student Contest Rules

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. There must be at least six entries in a category for it to be judged.
2. Only one poem per student can be entered in this contest. Entries must be on regular, white 8.5” x 11” paper, be 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 (that is, exactly one sheet for each copy: see number 5 below).
3. There should be no large or unusual fonts, and no illustrations. Times 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 their poem with the following requirements. (a) The first copy must show the student’s name, mailing address, email address, school name, student grade level, and the 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 none of the ID information appearing on the first copy. (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 in Levels 1-3 will be awarded a certificate and monetary prize of \$30 for first place, \$20 for second place, and \$10 for third place. Place winners in Levels 4 and 5 will be awarded a certificate and monetary prize of \$35 for first place, \$25 for second place, and \$15 for third place. Honorable Mentions will be awarded as merited, and do not come with a monetary prize. The poems that place in each category will be published in the annual MPS Contest Journal. Winners will be invited to read their poems when the winners are announced in April at the MPS Festival.
7. There is a **postmark deadline of February 15, 2024**. Send entries to  
Dr. Emory Jones  
608 N. Pearl Street  
Iuka, MS 38852
8. Each entrant must include a signed declaration of originality. The following statement should appear on the bottom of the FIRST copy and ONLY on the first copy. “I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any other author’s poems in print or posted on the Internet.” The student should place their signature below this statement. FINALLY, please do not submit a poem that has placed in a previous Mississippi Poetry Society contest.

**These instructions are DETAILED.  
Read and follow them carefully!**

**Good luck!!**

Should you have any questions, you may contact the contest coordinator:

Dr. Emory Jones  
pianot@bellsouth.net