



Student Poetry Competition 2020 – be a painter in words

Calling young poets. We're inviting you to enter our Student Poetry Competition 2020. You can choose your own theme or explore our optional theme of 'Hope'.

Following our successful Short Story Competition last year, we want young Victorians to express themselves in poetry in its myriad forms.

We like to think of poetry as 'the art of doing by means of words what the painter does by means of colour' (Thomas Macaulay). We want you to be painters in words, to see what other people see every day in a new way. Any poem in any form that works is magic.

The competition is presented by Independent Schools Victoria, as part of its Arts Learning Festival program. It's open to all Victorian students, regardless of school.

Prizes will be awarded to winners by a panel of expert judges, and winning poems will be published on our Short Edition story dispensers, as well as online.

What are the age categories?

- Foundation - Year 2.
- Years 3-4
- Years 5-6
- Years 7-8
- Years 9-10
- Years 11-12

What are the judges looking for?

The poems will be evaluated by a panel of judges appointed by Independent Schools Victoria.

Poems will be judged on:

- Creativity/style and originality
- Coherence of form and structure
- Artistic use of poetic techniques



- Clarity of imagery and language
- Clear, memorable concrete images
- Generation of an emotional response in the reader
- Correct spelling.

The judging panel will take into consideration the age of the student.

What is the maximum length?

60 lines

What is the deadline for entries?

Friday, 22 May 2020. Winners announced early Term Three.

How can you enter?

Poems must be sent in a Word document with attached cover sheet, clearly stating the writer's name, year level, school (or home schooled), teacher or parent/carer contact details. They must be emailed to stories@is.vic.edu.au

Look out more information to help you on your poetry journey, including interviews with poets and other resources. You can subscribe to our festival newsletter to get the latest updates, and material will be posted on artslearningfestival.com.au

About our optional theme of 'Hope'

Have you ever found yourself uttering, 'I hope I get a good mark for my English exam' or 'I hope I get that new video game for Christmas'?

Have you ever wondered 'what is hope and why should we hope'? These are questions we are asking you to explore in the optional theme for our Poetry Competition.

It seems *hope* is one of the most important emotions we can feel. In times of uncertainty it can be a rock to keep us afloat. It can foster belief that you can succeed. It sees setbacks as opportunities for growth and ultimately this counteracts fear. *Hope* is a powerful therapy. It brings out optimism in us all and more importantly, when you are optimistic it can affect your health in a wonderful way.

On the other hand, as Emily Dickinson said:

Hope is that thing with feathers

That perches in the soul

And sings the tune without the words



And never stops at all.

What has *hope* done for you?

Some suggestions that might help you create your poems. (They are not essential requirements.)

- Enable the reader or listener to gain a rich impression of the world. Poetry can take something simple and make it deep. Hopefully it can make the reader see things and think of things in a way never seen before.
- Read and hear other pieces of poetry regularly. See how other poets use the many forms.
- Practice expanding vocabulary. Work hard to make the perfect choice for every single word in the poem.
- Read your poem out aloud and listen. Does it flow? Does your listener have a strong emotional/intellectual reaction to your poem? Does the poem linger with them?
- Don't be satisfied with your initial ideas. Write them down and keep exploring ways to make your poem finer.
- A fine poem demonstrates artistry with language. Choose words that will convey what you want to "get across" and do so capably.
- Know your goal. If I don't know where I'm going how can I get there? Before you begin ask, what do I want this poem to do?
- A poet must ask continually of their lines. Do they make the reader see or hear or feel this experience I am trying to create?
- A great poem wrestles with an idea that is different, captivating, electrifying, disturbing, consequential, compelling and fun.
- A fine poem cuts out everything unessential. Check if each word and punctuation pieces are absolutely essential.
- Brilliant poems evoke ideas and emotions that cannot be pinned down
- Revise, revise, revise. Put the poem away then come back to it. Ask someone for their thoughts.

Any questions?

Contact us at stories@is.vic.edu.au, or on (03) 9825 7200