

DYER-IVES

POETRY

COMPETITION

2020
TEACHER'S
GUIDE



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POETRY

COMPETITION



with National Judge Keith S. Wilson

Keith S. Wilson is an Affrilachian Poet and Cave Canem fellow. He is a recipient of an NEA fellowship as well as fellowships/grants from Bread Loaf, Kenyon College, Tin House, MacDowell, Vermont Studio Center, UCross, and Millay Colony, among others. Keith serves as Assistant Poetry Editor at *Four Way Review* and Digital Media Editor at *Obsidian Journal*. His first book, *Fieldnotes on Ordinary Love*, was published by Copper Canyon. Keith's work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Elle*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Adroit Journal*, *Boston Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Narrative Magazine*, *32 Poems*, *Arts & Letters*, *Rhino*, and *Vinyl*.

DIVISIONS & AWARDS

Elementary School

Grades K – 2

1st Place: \$25 & publication
2nd Place: publication

Grades 3 – 4

1st Place: \$25 & publication
2nd Place: publication

Middle School

Grades 5 – 6

1st Place: \$50 & publication
2nd Place: publication

Grades 7 – 8

1st Place: \$50 & publication
2nd Place: publication

High School

Grades 9 – 10

1st Place: \$75 & publication
2nd Place: publication

Grades 11 – 12

1st Place: \$100 & publication
2nd Place: publication

Undergraduate

1st Place: \$100 & publication
2nd Place: \$75 & publication

Adult

1st Place: \$150 & publication
2nd Place: \$125 & publication
3rd Place: \$100 & publication

DETAILS

Competition History

The Dyer-Ives Foundation founded this competition in 1968 to encourage excellence in writing and to provide recognition for local work of high quality.

Eligibility

Open to Kent County, MI residents of all ages.

Open to students attending classes within Kent County, MI, including GVSU.

Open to students who are residents of Kent County, but attend school elsewhere.

How to Enter

Each person may submit one poem for consideration, preferably online using Submittable. There is no entry fee. Instructions are available at www.grpl.org/dyer-ives. Writers whose work is selected will be published in *Voices* and will be invited to read at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival of the Arts in June. Teachers are also encouraged to enter their poems in the Adult category.

GUIDELINES

Online Entry

- Submit one unpublished poem per person online via our Submittable portal. If submitting for multiple students, please submit a separate form for each student. The form only allows you to attach one document.
- To go directly to the Submittable portal, visit www.grpl.org/dyer-ives/submit.
- Note that names should not appear anywhere on the uploaded document(s). This ensures blind judging.
- Complete instructions about how to submit online can be found at www.grpl.org/dyer-ives.

Mail-In Entries

- Students in grades K – 5 can enter poems via mail.
- Submit one unpublished poem.
- Entries must be typed.
- Include division category, name, address, phone, email, and title of the poem on a 3" x 5" index card and paper clip it to the poem.
- Name should not appear on poem.
- Mail entries to the following address:
Grand Rapids Public Library
Attn: Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Judging & Results

- We reserve the right to disqualify any entry not meeting the guidelines or eligibility requirements.
- Entries serve as photo release and agreement to participate in media events.
- Winners under 18 years of age will need a parent/guardian to sign a photo release form.
- Winning poems will be posted online at www.grpl.org/dyer-ives in Spring 2020.

Instructions for Teachers Submitting Student Poems

- Teachers can mail multiple students' poems in one envelope.
- Make sure the student's name does not appear on the poem. Paper clip a 3" x 5" card to each entry, with the following information: division category, student name, home address, phone, and email information for parent, if appropriate. Please also include the title of the poem and what Kent County school the student attends.
- Students may also submit their poems following the online submission instructions.
- Questions? Email dyerives@grpl.org.

SUBMISSIONS
ACCEPTED

February 1 – 29, 2020

For complete guidelines, go to www.grpl.org/dyer-ives.

VOICES

Voices, the annual literary journal, contains the year's winning poems and judge's comments. *Voices* is free to the public and available to view at www.grpl.org/dyer-ives.

2019 Winner in the First Division, Alissa Vezikov

Grief

by Alissa Vezikov

Grieve,
Dear child
Every time you lose
A bit of purity, ever so mild
And a drop of innocence

Mourn of your sorrows,
My darling
Every time you break in two
By the pressure, smirking and snarling
At imperfection

Lay awake,
My sisters and brothers,
Fear the loss of fragility
Of hope and peace and every other
Being stolen from under you

Lament,
My dears,
For the small hand that has held onto you,
Gripping with a spear
Removing beauty slowly

And for the children,
Not yet lost in deceit
Not yet drowning in disgrace –
Hold onto your innocent heart;
And never, never let go
But for those that have forgotten,
Or never have been told
Mourn, my beloved
For the innocence you no longer hold
Grieve

POETRY PROMPTS TO ADAPT FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

Write some venomous verse

- Choose a topic: something you dislike or is hateful to you. (eg. broccoli, mosquitoes, homework, etc).
- Your poem's title could be "Dear _____" or "Poem for _____" [insert topic]. Write the rest of the poem like a letter addressed to your topic.
- List three things your topic reminds you of; concentrate on the overall impression your topic makes.
- Compare your topic to three other things. Good starter phrases: "You remind me of ..." or "You make me think of ..." or "You're just like ..."
- List three physical features of your topic. Compare the features to something else. Create an image that clarifies the features' qualities.
- When you're around your topic, what three things would you choose to do?

Write an ekphrastic poem

A poem inspired by:

- A piece of art
- a photograph
- best/worst day
- a news item
- what you see out the window
- a favorite word, quote, or idea

Write a letter poem to a fictional character or someone in history

Write a list poem

- Ask students to list 5 – 10 things in a single category (facts about animals, ways to prepare food, or important places they've been).

Tips for editing

- Does the poem have a title that catches your attention?
- What figurative language can be improved or changed? Are there clichés?
- Have students read their poems out loud.
- Have students read each other's poems and suggest one thing to take out and one thing to add / one question they're left wondering.
- Do the lines of the poem end on interesting words?
- Did you check for misspellings?
- Is the poem typed in a legible font?

Listen to poems online as a class (middle school and up)

- Aja Monet – "The First Time"
- Sabrina Benaim – "Explaining my Depression to My Mother"
- Hanif Abdurraqib – "A Genealogy"
- Hieu Minh Ngyuen – "It was the Winter"
- Sarah Kay & Phil Kaye – "When Love Arrives"
- Clementine von Radics – "For Teenage Girls"