

DYER-IVES

# POETRY

COMPETITION

TEACHER'S  
GUIDE



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51<sup>ST</sup> DYER-IVES

# POETRY COMPETITION



with National Judge  
Nancy Huang

Nancy grew up in America and China. She is a winner of the 2016 Write Bloody Poetry Chapbook contest, an Andrew Julius Gutow Academy of American Poets Prize, a James F. Parker Award in Poetry, a 2015 YoungArts Finalist prize, and more. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Vinyl*, *Bodega Magazine*, *TRACK//FOUR*, *Winter Tangerine Review*, *The Shade Journal*, and others. She is an alum of the Iowa Writer's Workshop summer graduate session and a VONA, Tin House, and Pink Door fellow. Her debut poetry collection, *Favorite Daughter*, is out by Write Bloody Publishing.

## DIVISIONS

### First Division

Kindergarten – Eighth Grade

1st Place: \$100  
2nd Place: \$75  
3rd Place: \$50

### Second Division

High School – Undergraduate

1st Place: \$125  
2nd Place: \$100  
3rd Place: \$75

### Third Division

Graduate Student – Adult

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

## 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. There is no entry fee. Writers whose work is selected for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category will be published in *Voices* and will be invited to read at the Awards Ceremony during the Festival of the Arts in June.

# 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- Submit one unpublished poem per person online via our Submittable portal.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](http://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](http://www.grpl.org/dyer-ives).

## Mail-In Entries

- Submit one unpublished poem.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.
- Name should not appear on poem.
- If you want a receipt for your poem, enclose a stamped Self-Addressed Envelope (SASE).
- 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](http://www.grpl.org/dyer-ives) in Spring 2019.

## 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. Staple 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? E-mail [dyerives@grpl.org](mailto:dyerives@grpl.org).

SUBMISSIONS  
ACCEPTED

February 1 – 28, 2019

For complete guidelines, go to [www.grpl.org/dyer-ives](http://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](http://www.grpl.org/dyer-ives).

## 2018 Winner in the First Division, Natalie Mouw

### Darkness as a Canvas

by Natalie Mouw

Darkness as a canvas  
A palette as clear as can be,  
Mistakes in the darkness can't be seen,  
They don't exist for me.  
Moving swiftly throughout the darkness,  
Nothing in my way.

I am the ruler of the darkness because it's only me  
Everybody has their own  
If theirs is as true as can be  
With no light all seeping in  
Then the darkness is your canvas,  
And now you can begin.

To dance and leap and twirl about,  
Inside your very own world  
And paint the picture of the night  
However you should choose  
Darkness has its wonders,  
And although the light is grand  
Darkness is quite mystical  
Creating its very own land

For either it seems so gaping wide,  
Or else so very full,  
Or as far and wide as your eyes can reach,  
Or as close to your face as a wall

# POETRY PROMPTS TO ADAPT FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

## Write some venomous verse

- Choose a topic: something you dislike or is hateful to you. (ex. 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 a color poem (or substitute an emotion or idea)

- State a color.
- List three natural items that are that color.
- Identify three scents that you associate with that color.
- Describe what time of day or year you think of.
- List what additional sights or people come to mind.
- Name emotions or feelings

## Write a poem about

- 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
- in closing, say something about your future relationship with your topic.

## Write an image poem

An image poem relies on an image to convey how the poet feels about the subject. Image poems attempt to recreate a moment for the reader to experience first hand; they rely on the senses and concrete specific details to show rather than tell. An image poem doesn't explain, which is why a good title is an important part of the poem's meaning. Here's one way to get started:

- Ask students to list 10 \_\_\_\_\_. It could be 10 encounters with animals, 10 encounters with food (eating, preparing, sharing, loving or hating certain foods), 10 important people in their lives, important places. Try 10 ideas they're learning about in school—math, science, history, physics, art—why do they find something beautiful or tedious or fascinating?
- Encourage students to make the list up to 10, even if they think they already know what they'll write about. Digging harder for the topic can yield fun and unexpected results.
- Next step: Choose an item from the list that seems vivid or alive or pops out. Recreate the moment with sensory details. Look for specific, concrete details to add.
- Take a look at what you have. What do you think the poem is about? What images, sounds, smells, details best describe your moment? What can you add or take away that would make the poem better?

## Publishing / finishing a poem

- Does the poem have a title that catches your attention?
- Do the lines of the poem end on interesting words?
- Did you check for misspellings?
- Is the poem typed in a legible font?

## Some examples of image poems to find at your local library or online

- "Dishwater" by Ted Kooser from *Delights and Shadows*. Copper Canyon Press
- "Chocolate" by Rita Dove from *American Smooth*. W.W. Norton and Company, Inc.
- "The Fish" by Elizabeth Bishop
- "The Red Wheelbarrow" by William Carlos Williams

