

**56th  
Annual**

# **Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition**

**Teacher's Guide  
2024**



**GRAND  
RAPIDS  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

# GUIDELINES

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## 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- Submit one unpublished poem per person online via our Submittable portal.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](http://www.grpl.org/dyer-ives) submit.
- Note that names should not appear anywhere on the uploaded document(s). 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

- Students in grades K – 8 can enter poems via mail.
- Submit one unpublished poem.
- Entries must be typed.
- Include grade 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](http://www.grpl.org/dyer-ives) in Spring 2024.

## 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 their poem.
- Paper clip an index card or separate sheet of paper to each entry with the following information: grade category, student name, home address, phone number, and parent and/or student email address.
- 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](mailto:dyerives@grpl.org).



**Submissions  
accepted**

February 1 – 29, 2024

# VOICES

Voices is published annually to highlight the winners of the Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition.

## A Monkey's Day

*Fischer Feenstra*

I am a monkey  
I swing through the trees

I eat lots of fruit  
And I also eat leaves

I gather my friends  
And we hang by our knees

I like to play  
And groom my species

I make nests of twigs  
And I lay down with ease

## In The Meadow

*Evelyn Wiegand*

In the meadow  
where the foxes play,  
the birds sing  
and the flowers sway  
in the slight cool wind.  
I run around  
and stop to put a  
poppy in my hair  
that smells like nectar.

## Listening to the Birds

*Kai Feenstra*

I am listening to the birds, as I sit by a tree.  
The birds are singing loud, just for me.

All of a sudden they go quiet, and fly.  
A hawk has come, and you know why.

She's got a bird, and gulps it down.  
Then flies away without a sound.

## Winter Without Apricity

*Teagan Crowther*

The snow crunched under my feet  
Like music filling a silenced hall  
It was dark and the cold was bittersweet  
The sun tried to crawl away from the clouds  
They surrounded the light as it tried to fight  
Winter won again

The air stung my eyes and I was numb  
Even the beauty of it all could not save me  
from the sadness that was bound to come  
All of this is not strange for the story of life  
without apricity



**Special Thanks!**

The Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition is made possible thanks to the support of our sponsor:

