

Writing Contest Rubric - Poetry

Criteria	<u>Excellent</u> 4	<u>Good</u> 3	<u>Fair</u> 2	<u>Did Not Meet</u> 1	<u>Score</u>
Form	Poem has interesting shape on the page which enhances its meaning. Possibly uses line breaks and indents. May follow sonnet, haiku, free verse or other poetic forms successfully.	The author's poem has a somewhat successful look on the page. Could be improved if line breaks or indents were used. Uses sonnet and other poetic forms somewhat successfully	The poem's form does not add much to its meaning, Poet still grasping what form can do for a poem. Poem's meaning not dependent on its form. Unoriginal placement on page.	The author appears not to have given the poem's form much thought. Haphazard placement of words on the page. Author does not use any poetic forms.	
Originality	Poem captures and maintains the reader's attention. Author looks at things in a new way. There may be an "a-ha!" Moment.	Poem captures the reader's attention but does not maintain it throughout. Looks at things conventionally	Poem does not capture the reader's attention at the beginning, but does include interesting details.	Poem does not capture nor maintain the reader's interest. Contains trite or overused cliches.	
Figurative Language	Author makes use of simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification and other poetic devices. Poet uses language in a fresh way. .	Figurative language used somewhat successfully. Presents some memorable images. Some interesting word choices	Use of figurative language lacking. Images are confusing or unclear.	Lacks use of any figurative language. No images, no alliteration, etc. Few, if any, interesting word choices.	

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Message	Poem conveys a clear message or describes emotions that ring true. Poem helps reader understand a concept like love or envy or relationships or climate change	Poem conveys a message that may be a bit unclear. Does describe emotions, but does so in a trite way. Reader learns a little from the poem about important concepts	Poem's message takes many readings to discover, and still the reader is left unsure. But there are some valid points.	Poem's message is muddled. Not sure where the author is going. Reader left confused and frustrated. Poem offers very few insights.	
Meter	Makes interesting use of meter (stressed and unstressed syllables). Poem has a pleasant or disturbing or exciting rhythm that enhances its meaning. Poem has intriguing sound when read aloud.	Poem has some use of meter, perhaps in a few lines for emphasis. Poet seems aware of the rhythm of their words. Poem sounds OK when read aloud.	Poem has meter but it is not appropriate or the meaning of the poem (sing-songy meter for a poem about death or a strident, march-like meter for love poem. Poem sounds rather jarring when read aloud.	Poem makes no use of meter. Author seems unaware of how the lines can have rhythm that enhances the meaning and reading experience. When poem is read aloud, it is no different from boring prose.	