

# The Pandora Poetry Contest

## Submission Guidelines and Judging Criteria

The Pandora Poetry Contest is an annual event sponsored by the Manitoba Association of Teachers of English. It is open to Manitoba students from Kindergarten to Senior 4. Prizes will be book gift certificates awarded in the following denominations: \$60 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$40 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and \$30 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Prizes will be given in six grade-level categories:

- Grades K – 2
- Grades 3 & 4
- Grades 5 & 6
- Grades 7 & 8
- Grades 9 & 10
- Grades 11 & 12

Due to postage costs, submissions can not be acknowledged or returned. Winners will be notified in June by letter to sponsoring teachers at their school addresses. Winning poems will be published with the 2010 - 2011 issues of *Classmate*, the journal of the Manitoba Association of Teachers of English. Winners will receive a copy of the issue in which their poems appear.

Any teacher who involves an entire class in poetry writing is asked to select or involve the class in selecting the best work in the class for submission; please do not submit an entire class set of pattern poems.

### Submission Guidelines

Teachers should help students to follow the guidelines below when submitting their poems to the contest:

1. Submit entries on standard 8 ½" X 11" paper.
2. If submitting more than one poem, submit each one on a separate page.
3. Type, print, or write the poem(s) neatly using dark ink (or dark pencil). If using a word processor, please use dark print and a plain, 12 point font.
4. Ensure that the poem is free of errors.
5. Include information about the student on the back of each poem. Make sure this information is complete and clearly readable. Include:
  - } First and last name
  - } Grade
  - } School
  - } School mailing address
  - } Name of sponsoring teacher

### Judging Criteria

In a poetry contest, the poet is unknown to the judges. Although the poems are grouped into grade categories, the judges do not know the specific age, gender, or academic ability of the poet. The poem stands apart from its creator and is judged on its merit as a product apart from any non-essential graphic design. Poetry written as a vehicle to understand oneself and one's world often leads to personal insight for the poet; however, the criteria for the Pandora Poetry Contest are based on how the poem affects a reader. Judges will be looking for the poems in each grade category which best exemplify one or more of the following:

1. The poet knows and cares about the topic of the poem.
2. The poem evokes response in the reader, appealing to emotions and / or intellect.
3. The form and content of the poem complement one another.
4. The poet uses language in a fresh way, avoiding clichés and forces rhymes.
5. The poet pays attention to the sound of the words.
6. The poet uses language precisely and economically.
7. The poet maintains a consistent voice.

*These items are not in any order of importance and are not weighted.*

Entries for the 2010 Pandora Poetry Contest may be emailed or mailed by post to the address below by March 21, 2010.

Pandora Poetry Contest 2010  
c/o Mrs. Diana Daoust  
99 Highbury Road  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2N 2N5  
diana.rob.83@gmail.com

Note:  
Please send each poem as an individual submission on email.

