



2025 ISPS STUDENT CONTESTS

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY December 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025

AWARDS in EACH CONTEST

Top Three plus Two Honorable-Mention poems will be published in the 2025 *Fresh Ink* anthology. Winning poets receive a copy of the book (also available on amazon.com), a certificate, and a one-year ISPS membership.

Top Three Winners also receive cash prizes, and their poems advance to the National Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest. For details, visit the NFSPS website: nfsps.net/manningham-student-poetry-contest

SENIOR DIVISION CONTESTS Grades 9-12

1. ISPS President's Challenge Award

Sponsored by Mary Beth Bretzlau

- SUBJECT: Dreams
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 30 lines, includes spaces between stanzas
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

2. Sejong Poetry Award

Sponsored by the Sejong Cultural Society

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: SIJO, Korea's Poetry form, <https://bit.ly/3qN30IZ>
- LINE LIMIT: 3 lines, total 45 syllables
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

3. Ida Kotyuk Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

- SUBJECT: Monday Morning
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

4. Music Poetry Award

Sponsored by Jill Spealman

- SUBJECT: Music
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 30
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

5. Poems That Sing Award

Sponsored by Colleen McManus Hein

- SUBJECT: Poems that could be song lyrics
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40 lines
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

6. Huitain Award

Sponsored by Highland Park Poetry

- SUBJECT: Any
- FORM: Huitain: 8-line stanza; ababbcb rhyme scheme; usually 8 to 10 syllables per line. LINE LIMIT: 8
- PRIZES: \$35/\$25/\$15

7. Lederer Award

Sponsored by Bill Lederer

- SUBJECT: Confinement
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$35/\$25/\$15

JUNIOR DIVISION CONTESTS Grades 6-8

8. ISPS President's Challenge Award

Sponsored by Mary Beth Bretzlau

- SUBJECT: Dreams
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 30 lines, includes spaces between stanzas
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

9. Sejong Poetry Award

Sponsored by the Sejong Cultural Society

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: SIJO, Korea's Poetry form, <https://bit.ly/3qN30IZ>
- LINE LIMIT: 3 lines, total 45 syllables
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

10. Ida Kotyuk Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

- SUBJECT: Monday Morning
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

11. Lederer Award

Sponsored by Bill Lederer

- SUBJECT: Confinement
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$15/\$10/\$5

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any submission that does not follow ALL guidelines will be disqualified.

- 1. Eligibility.** Original work of a single student in a public or private Illinois school or home-schooled in Illinois.
- 2. Entries.** Only one poem per category. No poem can be submitted to multiple categories.
- 3. Unpublished.** Poems published in print or online or accepted for publication (except in school publications) are ineligible.
- 4. Simultaneous Submissions.** Poems currently entered in other contests are not eligible.

POEM & PAGE FORMATS

- **English** only.
- **Lines.** All text and blank lines count except the title and one blank line after title.
- **Line width.** Maximum: 50 characters,

includes punctuation marks and spaces.

- **Single-spaced lines.**
- **One poem** per 8.5" x 11" page.
- **Typed** or computer-generated, 12 point, plain font (Times New Roman, etc.) on white paper. No artwork.
- **Title** all poems except haiku.

PREPARING SUBMISSIONS

1. Submit two typed copies of each poem (one anonymous for the judge; one with ID). Include contest number and title on the upper left of both.

2. ID Copy Only: On the upper right include:

- Student's name, age, grade level. School/home-school name and address (city/state/zip required). Teacher/Sponsor's name (first and last name and Mr./Ms./Mrs.). Teacher/Sponsor's email address.
 - Add on the page a statement signed by the student: "I certify that this poem is my original work (no AI assist) and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poem in print or posted on the Internet."
- Signed _____

3. Copies. Do not separate the copies. Do not staple the copies together.

4. Batched Mailings: Teachers/Sponsors may send all students' poems in one envelope.

- Sort poems by contest number.
- Keep anonymous and ID copies together (no staples or paper clips).
- Include your email address.

5. Self-entered. An individual student may submit entries in a single mailing.

6. Fees. There are no entry fees.

DEADLINE: Postmark must be between: **December 1, 2024-February 28, 2025**

SEND TO:

ISPS c/o Mary Beth Bretzlau
426 Park Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mary Beth Bretzlau
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website: www.illinoispoets.org