

“Kids Creating Change For a Better Tomorrow” Poetry Contest

Each year, April is set aside as a military child appreciation month, officially known as Month of the Military Child, to recognize military kids for their sacrifice and bravery on the home front. Many military youth have faced extended separations from a loved one this year as their parents have been called up to serve their community and country during an especially challenging year. The strength and resiliency of military youth in the face of these challenges is inspirational.

To show appreciation and celebrate the power of youth, Military Kids Vermont invites you to participate in the “Kids Creating Change For a Better Tomorrow” Poetry Contest. All poetry must incorporate how youth can help change the future.

Rules for Poetry Pieces

- Open to ALL youth 5-18 years old
- ***no military affiliation required***
- All poetry must be original
- One submission only per youth
- Artwork is optional
- Use of provided theme is a requirement

Send or email your Poetry to:

Allison Smith, ATTN: MOMC Poetry Contest
UVM Extension 4-H
140 Kennedy Drive, Suite 201
South Burlington, VT 05403

Or email to Allison.smith.2@uvm.edu

Prizes & recognition

- Prizes will be awarded to 1st place winners in the following age groupings: 5-7, 8-11, 12-15, 16-18

Deadline

- Entries must be postmarked or emailed by April 2nd 2021.

Fine Print

- Poetry pieces will only be returned if a stamped self-addressed envelope is included with submission
- Please include the name, age, mailing address, email, phone number when submitting your entry.



Poetry is a type of literature, or artistic writing that attempts to stir a reader's imagination or emotions. The poet does this by carefully choosing and arranging language for its meaning, sound, and rhythm. Some poems, such as nursery rhymes, are simple and humorous. Other poems may try to express some truth about life, to tell a story, or to honor a person or a god. Poetry appears in a great many forms and styles. This makes it difficult to define exactly.

One thing that makes poems different from other types of writing is their structure. The words of a poem are arranged in lines and groups of lines, called stanzas. For example, here is the first stanza of the poem "From a Railway Carriage," about an exciting train ride, by Robert Louis Stevenson:

*Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle,
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye
Painted stations whistle by.*

To explore more about rhythm, sound, form and figure of speech, check out this link:

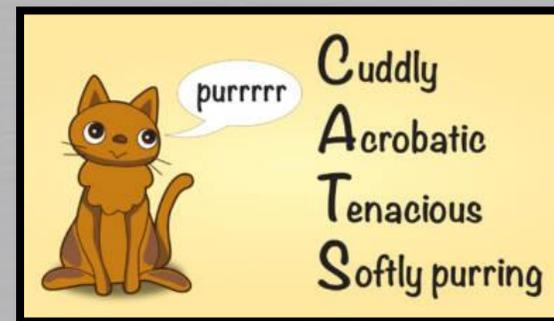
<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/poetry/353645>

There are also many different types of poems. Here are some interesting types:

Haiku – The haiku (or hokku) is an ancient form of Japanese poetry that has become very popular all over the world. Renowned for its small size, haikus consist of just three lines (tercet); the first and third lines have five syllables, whereas the second has seven. Haikus don't have to rhyme and are usually written to evoke a particular mood or instance.

Ballad - The ballad is an old and traditional form of poetry that typically tells a dramatic or emotional story. They came from Europe in the late Middle Ages and were initially passed down from one generation to another, and often with music.

Acrostic - This type of poetry spells out a name, word, phrase or message with the first letter of each line of the poem. It can rhyme or not, and typically the word spelt out, lays down the theme of the poem.



To discover more about these types and other kinds of poems, check out this link:
<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/children/2019/oct/different-types-of-poetry-for-kids.html>

