

2026 Poetry Rubric

any style, maximum: 40 lines

all entries are original and unpublished

Score Out of 100	Poetry
_/10	Universality and Purpose: Is it clear why the poem was written? Does it speak to a wide-ranging audience?
_/10	Thought: Does the poem have a worthwhile idea: wit, wisdom, humour, etc.? Does one thought follow another in an understandable way? Is it concise?
_/10	Emotional Loading: Are the poet's feelings clear and abundant? Is the intended mood of the poem obvious?
_/10	Title: Is the poem's title appropriate and effective in furthering the poem's meaning and impact?
_/10	Originality: Is the poem creative, original, and unique? Is it concrete? Is it personal?
_/10	Readability: What is the reader's overall impression? Does the poem move/grab the reader? Does it make a significant impact on the reader?
_/10	Form: Is the visual effect pleasing? If the poem is written in a specific poetic form (sonnet, villanelle, pantoum, etc.), was it stated on the entry, and does it follow the conventions of that poetic style?
_/10	Vocabulary and Imagery: Is word choice effective? Are images clear and effective (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.)? Are words connotative?
_/10	Sound Effects: Is reading the poem aloud pleasing? Are rhythm and/or rhyme effective? Are there any special sound effects (alliteration, repetition, onomatopoeia, etc.)? If so, are they effective? Do they add value to the poem?
_/10	The Mechanics: Are poetic conventions followed? Are punctuation, spelling, and grammar correct or at least consistent?

Additional Comments: