

**JUNIOR CREATIVE POETRY CONTEST 2010**  
Sponsored by the **UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY**  
Contest for students in Utah public, private, and home schools  
Assisted by **THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE**

November, 2009

Dear Educator:

To encourage your youthful poets, the Utah State Poetry Society announces the 2010 Junior Creative Poetry Contest for children grades 1-12 who are attending public, private, or home school in the state of Utah.

Over 1800 students of 140 teachers participated in the Junior Creative Poetry Contest last year. Why? Because Utah's children are natural poets, and many teachers recognize the value of giving them the opportunity to express that creativity. Two Utah students were among the top three winning student at the NFSPS national poetry convention at Duluth, MN!

We invite you to share the contest rules with your students and colleagues and begin preparations now to participate in this great opportunity. Though the deadline is not until February 15, 2010, it takes time to develop a selection of poems from which your students may choose.

We rely on you to share your enthusiasm and the rules provided. Many schools and many more teachers do not participate, probably because they don't know about the contest. **THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN GETTING NEWS OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO YOUR STUDENTS.**

We will choose winners in each district or unit (a collection of districts) and provide certificates you can present to them. In addition, the unit winners will go on to the state contest and those winners will receive cash prizes, state certificates, and may be published in the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

Elementary Principals, please share this letter and these rules with all of your teachers. English Department Chairs, share them with all who teach language arts. Let's honor the poetry that already exists in our students.

Sincerely,

Lee Snell  
Chair, Junior Creative Poetry Contest 2010  
1 (801) 318-9794 [eeor40@gmail.com](mailto:eeor40@gmail.com)  
5967 West 10550 North, Highland, Utah 84003

**JUNIOR CREATIVE POETRY CONTEST 2010**  
**Sponsored by the UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY**  
Assisted by the [Utah Arts Council](#), the [National Endowment for the Arts](#)  
and affiliated with the [National Federation of State Poetry Societies](#)  
and  
**THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE**  
Contest for students in UTAH public, private, and home schools only

**DEADLINE: All entries must be postmarked not before January 1, 2010  
but no later than February 15, 2010**

**Please send entries to:**

**Lee Snell**

**5967 W. 10550 N., Highland, Utah 84003**

**Phone (801) 756-1915 (801) 318-9794 (cell)**

District (unit) winners: So that students may be recognized for their poetry, we will have winners on the district (unit) level. We will provide a unit winner list and award certificates to the teachers of the winning students so that they may recognize winners in their own schools and communities. Hopefully, each school will present the awards in a public forum. We also hope the schools will notify their local newspapers.

State winners: Judges will select winners for the state from each unit. These all-state winners will be notified and honored at the annual Junior Creative Awards Festival in April . Prizes, certificates, and an anthology of the prize-winning poems will be awarded, and professional readers will read the poems. Some poems may be published in the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

Several winning poems in the 'C', 'D' , and 'E' divisions will also be entered in the Manningham Student Poetry Contest, sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. This is a national contest. Utah students took two of the three top prizes at nationals in 2009, earning cash prizes and awards.

We would like to suggest that teachers teach and emphasize that students are not to plagiarize poetry, no matter the source. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, except for poetry prompts and editing, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is prohibited. Use of copyrighted material is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as “to take and use” another person's ideas and writings as one's own to alter, change, or enhance his/her poems. We emphasize and underline this issue to protect the integrity of the contest and to protect the students from any negative experiences or devastating publicity should a plagiarized poem be published as a winner. Please note the form at the end of this document.

## JUNIOR CREATIVE POETRY CONTEST—2010 DIVISIONS

Division A: Grades 1 and 2      Division B: Grades 3 through 5  
Division C: Grades 6 through 8      Division D: Grades 9 and 10  
Division E: Grades 11 and 12

Cash prizes and awards are given on the state level only. All winners will receive certificates and an anthology of the winning poems. In Division 'A', ten winners will receive \$10 each. In divisions 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'E', winners will receive: 1st place: \$40 2nd place \$30 3rd place \$20 Honorable Mentions: \$15

A special award, the C. Cameron Johns award, in honor of the late Mr. Johns, founder of the Utah State High School Poetry Contest, will also be given. A special plaque and \$50 will be awarded to the student in division D or E whose poem best exemplifies the C. Cameron Johns tradition of emotional impact, clarity of thought, and precision of technique.

### **CONTEST RULES:**

Contest is open to UTAH students in school districts, public, private or home schools, grades 1-12, and postmarked no earlier than Jan. 1, 2010 and no later than Feb. 15, 2010.

**THE ENTRY MUST BE THE ORIGINAL WORK OF THE STUDENT. DO NOT COPY OR USE ALL OR PART OF SOMEONE ELSE'S POEM.** "Found poems" will not be considered. A quote from a poem as an epigraph, giving credit to the author is acceptable.

Poems may be in any style or form: rhymed, unrhymed, free verse, traditional, etc.

Each student may enter only one poem.

Poems must be no longer than 40 lines (not including title or spaces), limited to one page.

Send two copies of the poem; also, save one for your own records. No entries will be returned. Send copies together, but do not staple or paper clip.

A. no name or identification on first copy. On upper left on both copies, put: 1) Grade      2) Division      3) School district (Private and home school entries should indicate the public school district in which they are geographically located to assist the committee in organizing and sorting entries.)

**B. Second, ID copy only, must include**

**On upper right:**

- 1) Full name of poet
- 2) Complete home address
- 3) Home phone number
- 4) Teacher's full name
- 5) Teacher's school E-mail address
- 6) Principal's full name

**On upper left (second copy only), under Grade, Division, and District, put:**

- 7) School
- 8) School address
- 9) School phone number

**Please follow this format exactly. See example below.**

Authors must use their legal name. No pen names will be allowed.

Each poem should be neatly typed or computer-generated with standard type such as New York, Times Roman, or Helvetica in 10 or 12-point type. Entries should not be illustrated or use other graphic art.

Entries must be postmarked no earlier than January 1, and no later than February 15, 2010.

Included with the ID copy only, the student must verify that his/her work is original and has not been copied in whole or part from another author's work, including poems on the internet. See "Certificate of Originality" form below. Please staple behind ID copy (second copy).

Winning poems become the property of USPS for publishing in the anthology of winners and on the USPS website.

Subsequent to publication, ownership reverts to the author.

Check these requirements carefully. Any infractions could disqualify your poem.

Example for ID copy (see Rule 6 A above for first copy):

Grade 4 Susan Graham  
Division B 333 N. 300 W.  
Harper Valley School District Bean Blossom, UT 84000  
Harper Valley School 555-123-1234  
100 N. Main Teacher: Mrs. Ada Adler  
Bean Blossom, UT 84000 [aadler@ABC.edu.net](mailto:aadler@ABC.edu.net)  
555-123-4000 Principal: Mr. John J. Jones

**Teachers;** Please mail all entries in one or more 10X12 envelope(s). Do not have students send them. Thanks.

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### CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINALITY

I certify that this poem is my own original work and is not copied in part or whole from any other source.

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Title of poem \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge, this is the original work of the aforementioned student.

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form, properly signed, must accompany each entry. Please staple behind ID copy.