



BOOK Festival

Poetry Contest

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND D.C.

High school students from across the Washington Metropolitan Area are invited to submit poems to the Gaithersburg Book Festival Poetry Contest. **Poems should reflect themes of isolation and/or community during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Your entry must be no longer than one page, single-spaced 12 point Times New Roman in .doc or .docx format.

SUBMISSIONS

- Deadline: February 18, 2021, by midnight ET.
- Poems must be submitted electronically as a Word document as directed below. Use your poem title as the filename. Do not include your name in the filename.
- The document must include the author's name, address, phone number, e-mail, school, grade and English/writing teacher's name.

Submit your poem to: <https://www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org/gbf-programs/poetry-contest/>

QUALIFICATIONS

- Author must be a high school student (public, private or homeschooled, grades 9-12, in the 2020-2021 school year) at time of entry.
- Author must live in Maryland, Virginia or Washington, D.C.
- Only one submission per author.

PRIZES

- Up to 12 poems will be selected as finalists. The finalists will have their poems posted on the Gaithersburg Book Festival website prior to the Book Festival and will appear in a video.
- The top three poems and a fan favorite will be announced at the Gaithersburg Book Festival. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and the fan favorite will receive \$250, \$100, \$50 and \$25 gift certificates respectively.

For further information, please visit www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org/gbf-programs/poetry-contest/ or e-mail writingcontest@gaitersburgbookfestival.org.

Plans for the 2021 Gaithersburg Book Festival will be dependent upon the public health situation. Visit www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org for the latest updates.

Authors will be notified by April 19, 2021, if their poem is selected as a finalist.

Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- originality
- creativity
- use of language
- overall effect

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CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

Submitted poetry must:

- Reflect themes of isolation and/or community during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Be no longer than one page, single-spaced 12 point Times New Roman in .doc or .docx file format.
- Be written in the English language.
- Be wholly the original work of the entrant, written solely by the entrant.
- Not be copied from any other source.
- Not have been previously broadcast or otherwise distributed or disseminated in any media or format.
- Not be in the public domain.
- Not be in violation of trademark, copyright, or publicity right.
- Not include content that is inappropriate, offensive, pornographic, or otherwise unfit for dissemination or broadcast, as determined by the City of Gaithersburg in its sole discretion.
- Be submitted by the stated deadline.

Entries not satisfying these criteria in any respect will be disqualified. If the City of Gaithersburg, in its sole discretion, has reason to believe that any entry violates any law or any right, the City of Gaithersburg may immediately disqualify such entry and take any other measures the City of Gaithersburg may deem appropriate or necessary.

GRANT OF RIGHTS

By submitting a poem, the entrant grants to the City of Gaithersburg:

- A non-exclusive, assignable, perpetual, license to produce, publish, distribute, transmit, exhibit, exploit, and license the poem and any portions thereof in any format (collectively “distribute” or “distribution,” as applicable) by any and all means, uses and media, whether audio, print, audiovisual or otherwise, now or hereafter known, throughout the universe in all languages without financial compensation.
- Finalists will be asked to read their poems on video and will be required to sign a release form.

NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

The following, and their family members, are prohibited from participation in this contest:

- Employees of the City of Gaithersburg,
- City Council Members, and
- All volunteers associated with the Gaithersburg Book Festival.