Find Here: Guidelines for all Poetry Categories

Guidelines for Poetry: Primary Category (K–Gr. 3)

Goal
Our goal is to celebrate the heritage and continued relevance of the sixteenth century Protestant reformation. Participants are asked to create a poem that touches their readers so that faith is strengthened, understanding increased, and praise given to our faithful Lord who continues to gather, defend, and preserve his Church. Poetry is a powerful and creative form of written expression that is well suited to exploring ideas and feelings and touching the minds and hearts of its readers. Because of its conciseness, poetry allows the writer to focus more closely on the nuances of meaning and sound, make creative connections through figures of speech, and consider the interplay of the content with the form.

Content
The poem submitted can be on one of the following topics or themes:
- Specific events during the Great Reformation (15th and 16th centuries)
- Ideas and/or experiences of key figures of the Reformation
- Biblical doctrine debated and reclaimed by the reformers (see: Belgic Confession, articles 13, 27–29; Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Days 10 & 21; Canons of Dort, 1.18 & 2.9; Westminster Confessions, chapter 25)
- A personal response expressing deep gratitude and praise to the Lord for keeping his Church faithful to Scripture
- A representation of what lives in the heart of the Reformed Christian today as they reflect on what has happened in the past

Poetry Guidelines
The poem must be no longer than 360 words.

Poetry comes in many forms. While particular forms would be more suitable to work with at the particular levels, *all* forms are available for submissions at all levels. We suggest two categories of forms:

1. Formula poems: Poems which provide an "organizational scaffolding" of form from the very simple (e.g., acrostic poems) to the more complex (e.g.,

sonnets). It is important, although not necessarily of primary importance, that the poet honours the expectations set for a particular form.

2. Free form poems: Free form poems use non-metrical and non-rhyming lines as well as poetic devices such as diction, imagery, and enjambment in order to convey meaning and create effective word play.

Submissions should include reference to the particular form of poem being submitted.

Submissions

We hope that you will submit and/or perform your poetry for some local celebrations around October 31. The deadline for this use of your poetry will be established locally, probably by your teacher, **anytime between June and October 20, 2017**.

A second submission deadline has been established for teachers to submit poems that best match the guidelines given here. This date is **December 15, 2017**. Teachers are asked to select no more than *three entries* per level. Each school may determine its own selection process. Please send the text of your poem in portable document format (**pdf**) to ensure consistency in formatting.

To fully appreciate the excellence of a poem, it should be read aloud and heard. We encourage recording poetry readings on video or preparing an audio recording and then uploading it to **YouTube** (please use the "unlisted" privacy setting). The video link should be included with the submissions of the written text of the poem.

Please send these poems and recording links to Celebrate1517@gmail.com. You must include a filled-out **submission form.** You will find multiple links to it on our webpages**.** The Celebrate 1517 Committee will code the submission to ensure complete anonymity when your poem is passed on to the adjudication committee.

Permissions

By including your (or your legal guardian's) signature on our submission form, you are giving your permission for your submitted work to be included in a commemorative book to be published, Lord willing, in 2018, should your poem be selected.

Poems will be evaluated and selected for publication based on

- **Word Choice**—words are carefully selected to convey ideas clearly and vividly
- **Poetic Devices**—poem makes effective use of sound devices such as rhythm, rhyme and alliteration; poem makes creative use of figurative language such as symbol, analogy, metaphor and simile
- **Voice**—the tone of the poem is passionate, compelling, authentic, full of energy and commitment; poem evokes an emotional response from the reader
- **Content / Ideas**—the topic and content meet guidelines, the doctrinal and historical content are accurate, the subject matter is interesting and shows depth of thought
- **Conventions**—the conventions of writing (spelling, punctuation, grammar) and the poetic form (free verse, sonnet, acrostic etc.) are followed correctly or broken for effect