

2027 Poetry Challenge



Who may participate: Amateurs, semi-professionals, professionals and students of all ages are invited to submit original poetry in response to the 2026 Poetry Challenge. This year Highland Park Poetry challenges poets to write a response to one of the following prompts:

- **Human Flight** (in recognition of 100th anniversary of Charles A. Lindbergh's historic transatlantic solo flight and the 2027 NASA's plans for Artemis III mission.)
- **Movies**
- **Constanza** (any subject written as a constanza, a poetic form invented by Connie Marcum Wong, composed of at least five tercets (or 3-line stanzas) with 8 syllables per line. The first line of each tercet all share the same A rhyme and may be read as its own poem. The second and third line of each tercet share a rhyme and add deeper meaning to the entire poem.

What are the guidelines?

- Should express the writer's experiences, thoughts or feelings related to the challenge themes or form.
- Previously published works are accepted but please indicate where and when the work first appeared.
- Original poetry of 30 lines or fewer.



What is the deadline for submissions? **Monday, January 25, 2027**

*Selected authors will be notified on or before February 28, 2027

There is no reading fee to submit one (1) poem. To submit additional poems, there is a reading fee of \$4 per poem. Check or money order payable to Highland Park Poetry. OR on PAYPAL – paypal.me/HighlandParkPoetry

How will works be collected?

- **Via Electronic Submission:** Send pieces(s) as text in the body of an e-mail or as a single .doc or .pdf attachment to: Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org. Please provide all information requested on the entry form as text in the email or as a .doc, .jpg, or .pdf attachment. Please put "2026 Poetry Challenge" in the subject line of your e-mail. **No Google Docs.**
- **Submissions by U.S. Mail:** Send poem(s), completed/signed Entry/Release form and any reading fees (if applicable) to: Highland Park Poetry c/o Jennifer Dotson, 1690 Midland Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

How will poems be selected?

Poetry submissions will be selected by a guest judge. Selected adult poets will be invited to read their poems at a venue and date still to be determined. Selected student poets will be invited to read their poems at a venue and date still to be determined. Selected poetry will also be featured on the Muses' Gallery on the Highland Park Poetry website throughout April, May, and possibly June 2027.

What are the categories?

Depending on submissions received, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place poems will be awarded in the following categories:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Student, K – 5 | ▪ Student, 6 – 8 | ▪ Student, 9 – 12 | ▪ Student, College/University |
| ▪ Adult Highland Park Resident | ▪ Adult non-resident | | ▪ Adult, International |

Request for Art Work.

Photographers and visual artists of all ages are encouraged to submit works related to the 2026 Challenge to be included in our display on www.highlandparkpoetry.org. Artist/photographer will be credited.

2027 Poetry Challenge Entry Form *Deadline: January 25, 2027

Poet's Name _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Category: Student, K-5 _____ Student, 6-8 _____ Student, 9-12 _____ Student, College/University _____

Adult, Non-HP Resident _____ Adult, HP Resident _____ Adult, International _____

There is no reading fee to submit one (1) poem. To submit additional poems, there is a reading fee of \$4 per poem. Check or money order payable to Highland Park Poetry.

How many poems are you submitting? _____ Fee enclosed? _____

Poem Title(s) _____

Has work been previously published? _____ Yes _____ No

If Yes,

please indicate where & when _____

Submissions:

- Should express the writer's experiences, thoughts or feelings related to 1) Human Flight, or 2) Movies, or 3) on any subject written in the form of a Constanza.
- Previously published works are accepted but please indicate where and when the work appeared.
- Original poetry of 30 lines or fewer.

Release Form: Submissions must include a copy of the following completed form indicating your acknowledgement that (1) your submission is original and is not a copy or derivative of any other work and artificial intelligence was not used in any part of its creation; and (2) Highland Park Poetry has your irrevocable permission, without restriction, to use your work in original form or reproduction for exhibition, advertising, educational and promotional materials for this event as well as other events as Highland Park Poetry may determine in its sole and absolute discretion. Reasonable care will be taken in handling submissions but Highland Park Poetry is not responsible for accidental damage or loss.

PLEASE PRINT

Poet's Signature: _____ Date: _____

School / Grade / Teacher Name (if applicable) _____

For Parents of Minors: I have signed the above Release on behalf of myself and my minor child

Parent's Name (printed) _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____

MAIL TO:

Highland Park Poetry
c/o Jennifer Dotson
1690 Midland Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035



EMAIL TO:

Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org

Constanza: Poetic Forms

This week's poetic form is the constanza. It's a fun form comprised of at least five tercets (or three-line stanzas) that was invented by Connie Marcum Wong.

Here are the guidelines:

- Five (or more) tercets
- Eight syllables per line
- **First line of each tercet can be read as its own poem**
- First lines of each tercet all share the same A rhyme
- Second and third line of each tercet share a rhyme and add a deeper meaning to the entire poem

If your constanza is comprised of five tercets, this would be the rhyme pattern: *abb/acc/add/ae/aff*

Here's my attempt at a Constanza Poem:

"snow drift," by Robert Lee Brewer

we wander aimless through the snow
as our boots crunch and faces freeze
on this day we feel we must seize

unsure of where we ought to go
because our ambition is new
and our experience is too

when others claim that we should know
we respond that we wish we did
and fail to keep our passion hid

as some go to and others fro
pretending that they know the way
we want so much to seize each day

we wander aimless in the snow
our passion rolls right off our tongues
because our hearts are ever young

Written by Robert Lee Brewer for Writer's Digest "Poetic Form Fridays," published Friday, February 18, 2022

Source: <https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/constanza-poetic-forms>