



2020 Poetry Challenge

Who may participate: Amateurs, semi-professionals, professionals and students of all ages are invited to submit original poetry in response to the 2018 Poetry Challenge. This year Highland Park Poetry challenges poets to write a response to one of the following prompts:

- **Sight** (in recognition of the year 2020 sounding like “20/20” or a person with normal vision)
- **Mars** (in honor Isaac Asimov & Ray Bradbury’s 100th Birthdays and NASA 2020 Mars Rover)
- **Magic 9** (see attached description of this poetic form by Divena Collins)

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 appeared.
- Original poetry of 30 lines or fewer.

What is the timeline for this project?

***Deadline for submissions: Friday, January 31, 2020**

*Selected authors will be notified on or before February 29, 2020

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 will works be collected?

- **Via Electronic Submission:** Send pieces(s) as text in the body of an e-mail or as a .doc or .pdf attachment to: Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org. Please put “2020 Poetry Challenge” in the subject line of your e-mail.
- **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, 376 Park 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 the Highland Park Public Library Auditorium (494 Laurel Avenue) on date still to be determined at 7:00 p.m. Selected poetry will also be featured on the Muses’ Gallery on the Highland Park Poetry website throughout April 2020.

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

Request for Art Work.

Photographers and visual artists are encouraged to submit works related to the 2020 Challenge to be included in our display on www.highlandparkpoetry.org. Artist/photographer will be credited.

2020 Poetry Challenge Entry Form **Deadline: January 31, 2020*

Poet's Name _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Category: Student, K-5____ Student, 6-8____ Student, 9-12____

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

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 Sight (in recognition of the year 2020 sounding like "20/20" or a person with normal vision), or Mars (Isaac Asimov & Ray Bradbury's 100th Birthdays and NASA 2020 Mars Rover), or should be written in the form of a Magic 9.
- 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 (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 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: _____



Magic 9: Poetic Forms¹

By: **Robert Lee Brewer** | May 2, 2016

Like the [tricube](#), the *magic 9* is a newer form and relatively unknown. In fact, I couldn't find a creator of the form, though it appears to have been inspired by a poet misspelling the word "abracadabra."

This 9-line poem doesn't have any rules as far as meter or subject matter—just a rhyme scheme:
abacadaba.

That's right! Just remove the r's from "abracadabra," and boom! A new poetic form; and after writing my first magic 9, I can report that they're fun to write.

Here's my attempt at a magic 9:

The Next

Perhaps, I should sit for a spell,
though maybe I should stand,
for I want to whisper and yell
that she is mine, "O, she is mine!"
Or am I hers? I cannot tell
if I am one thing or the next
since that brief moment that I fell
for blue eyes like a wand
casting an ancient, binding spell.

Robert Lee Brewer is Senior Content Editor of the *Writer's Digest* Writing Community and author of *Solving the World's Problems* (Press 53). Follow him on Twitter @[RobertLeeBrewer](#).

¹ [Google Search](#) indicates that this form was created by [Divena Collins](#) - [Divena Collins](#)

Pasted from <http://www.thepoetsgarret.com/2014Challenge/form11.html>
<http://www.thepoetsgarret.com/>