



2021 Poetry Challenge



Who may participate: Amateurs, semi-professionals, professionals and students of all ages are invited to submit original poetry in response to the 2021 Poetry Challenge. This year Highland Park Poetry challenges poets to write a response to one of the following prompts:

- **Fruits and Vegetables** (the United Nations has declared 2021 the year of Fruits & Vegetables; ok to concentrate on one)
- **Common Threads**
- **Sweetelle** (see attached description of this poetic form by Allison Joseph)



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 29, 2021**

*Selected authors will be notified on or before February 29, 2021

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 by [paypal.me/HighlandParkPoetry](https://www.paypal.com/HighlandParkPoetry).

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 "2021 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 a venue and date still to be determined. It is possible these programs will be held virtually. Selected poetry will also be featured on the Muses' Gallery on the Highland Park Poetry website throughout April 2021.

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 2021 Challenge to be included in our display on www.highlandparkpoetry.org. Artist/photographer will be credited.

2021 Poetry Challenge Entry Form **Deadline: January 29, 2021*

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 _____

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 Fruits and Vegetables (*year 2021 is year of Fruits and Vegetables as declared by the United Nations*), Commons Threads or should be written in the form of a Sweetelle.
- 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: _____



Poetic Form: Sweetelle

Poet Allison Joseph invented the “sweetelle” which is 10 lines long, has 14 syllables per line, and a refrain at lines 1, 5 and 10. The poem may or may not have a rhyme scheme if desired, but end-rhyme is not required. The lines can be metered or syllable count lines.

Here is the schematic diagram:

<u>Line</u>	<u>syllable counts & refrains</u>
1.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxA
2.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
3.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
4.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
5.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxA
6.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
7.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
8.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
9.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
10.	xxxxxxxxxxxxxA

SAMPLE

A DOLLOP OF HONEY

There's nothing necessarily sweet about the sweetelle,
But there's nothing that must be bitter about it either.
It's a lot like coffee, perhaps; espresso is bitter,
But it may be sweetened with a dollop of honey, for
There's nothing necessarily sweet about the sweetelle --
But how does one make it bitter, or perhaps bittersweet?
One sits around in a coffee shop gazing at someone
He or she desires but cannot have, at least not right now.
But that's pretty bitter, I suppose, isn't it, my sweet?
There's nothing necessarily sweet about the sweetelle,

-- Lewis Turco