

2023 Poetry Challenge

Who may participate: Amateurs, semi-professionals, professionals and students of all ages are invited to submit original poetry in response to the 2023 Poetry Challenge. This year Highland Park Poetry challenges poets to write a response to one of the following prompts:

- **Flowers**
- **Architecture** (honoring the 300th anniversary of Sir Christopher Wren's death)
- **Imayo** (see attached description of this Japanese poetic form)

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:**

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

*Selected authors will be notified on or before February 28, 2023

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 "2023 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, 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 2023.

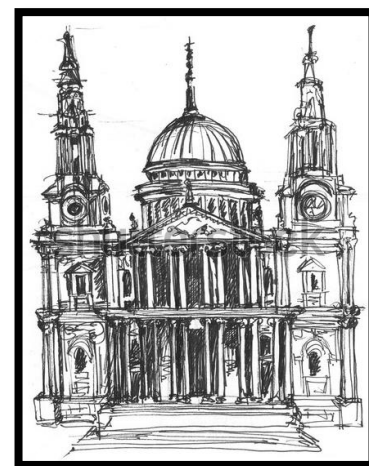
What are the categories?

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 are encouraged to submit works related to the 2023 Challenge to be included in our display on www.highlandparkpoetry.org. Artist/photographer will be credited.



2023 Poetry Challenge Entry Form **Deadline: January 31, 2023*

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 Flowers, or Architecture (honoring death of Sir Christopher Wren 300 years ago), or should be written in the form of an Imayo.
- 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: _____

MAIL TO:

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



EMAIL TO:

Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org

Imayo Poems - <https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/imayo-poetic-forms>

The imayo is a 4-line Japanese poem that has 12 syllables in each line. If a 12-syllable line sounds unique for a Japanese poetic form, don't fret. There is a planned caesura (or pause) between the first 7 syllables and the final 5. The 5/7 syllable splits are the familiar patterns found in other Japanese forms like [haiku](#), [tanka](#), and [senryu](#).

The imayo was originally written to be sung, but that's not a requirement. Also, poets have free range on subject matter.

Here's my attempt at an Imayo:

Run, by Robert Lee Brewer

Her feet flow along the path – deer watch from the trees

Hair pulled in a pony tail – birds fly over head

Her eyes on the horizon – fish swim in the creek

Her mind replaying the past – a tree falls silent

Here is the same poem with the lines broken at the caesura:

Run, by Robert Lee Brewer

her feet flow along the path

deer watch from the trees

hair pulled in a pony tail

birds fly over head

her eyes on the horizon

fish swim in the creek

her mind replaying the past

a tree falls silent

At Water's Edge

great blue heron stands regal ~ suddenly takes flight
wings spread in elegant poise ~ split the summer air
precise dive into water ~ wriggling silver prize
great blue heron stands regal ~ at lake's grassy edge

© Mary-Elizabeth

Background to Fill

darkness a background to fill volunteers appear
lighting the sky full moon shines stars tending to fade
river ripples and reflects mirroring the sky
darkness a background to fill above and below

Old Tree

old tree stands strong arms embrace the blue
limbs lift inviting birds knots filled for harvest
breeze ruffles green delicate fingers wave
old tree stands strong how much it has seen!

Taught: An Imayo*

You taught me to eat my pride, my inner monsters.
You taught my tired soul to pray, hope for the better.
But most of all my dearest, t'was you who taught me,
how to love with all my heart, until it stops beating.

— ©2016 Rosemawrites@A Reading Writer