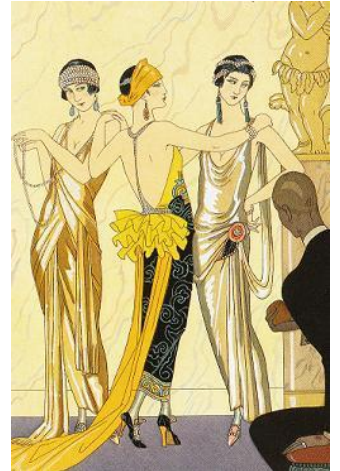


# 2025 Poetry Challenge



**Who may participate:** Amateurs, semi-professionals, professionals and students of all ages are invited to submit original poetry in response to the 2025 Poetry Challenge. This year Highland Park Poetry challenges poets to write a response to one of the following prompts:

- **The Roaring Twenties** (honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> publication anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*)
- **Ode to a Geographic Place** (inspired by Diane Redleaf's *Odes to the States: Poems Inspired By the 50 States and the District of Columbia*)
- **Dodoitsu** (any subject written as a dodoitsu, Japanese form of four lines where first three lines have 7 syllables and the last line has 5; usually concerning topics of work or love; see attached description and examples)



## 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: Monday, January 27, 2025**

\*Selected authors will be notified on or before February 28, 2025



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](https://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](mailto: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 "2025 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 2025.

## What are the categories?

Depending on submissions received, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2025 Challenge to be included in our display on [www.highlandparkpoetry.org](http://www.highlandparkpoetry.org). Artist/photographer will be credited.

# 2025 Poetry Challenge Entry Form \*Deadline: January 27, 2025

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) The Roaring Twenties (honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> publication anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*, or 2) Ode to a Geographic Place (inspired by Diane Redleaf's *Odes to the States: Poems Inspired By the 50 States and the District of Columbia*), or 3) on any subject written in the form of a dodoitsu.
- 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

# Dodoitsu<sup>1</sup>

The *dodoitsu* is a Japanese poetic form developed towards the end of the Edo Period, which came to an end in 1868. As with most Japanese forms, the dodoitsu does not have meter or rhyme constraints, focusing on syllables instead.

This 4-line poem has seven syllables in the first three lines and five syllables in the fourth--and final--line. The dodoitsu often focuses on love or work with a comical twist. While my examples below do not have titles, I haven't found any word on whether dodoitsu traditionally have titles or not.

## Robert Lee Brewer

### Here is an example focused on work:

when a geologist speaks  
& the earth trembles seven  
meteorologists get  
sucked in a twister

### Here is an example focused on love:

i gave her all my heart &  
heartache but she returned it  
with the admission they gave  
her severe heartburn

## Pat Anthony

### A F T E R M A T H

Spring storms split seed laden trees  
No young seedlings will take root  
Leaves curl and sap leaches out  
Broken heart-wood.

## Amy

### B R E A K F A S T I N B E D

pancakes say good morning, dear  
coffee says rise and shine with  
a spot of cream, but daisies  
whisper i love you

## Sarah Potter

### T H E R A I N B O W

Through the window, a rainbow  
she is desperate to share.  
Molded in cushion comfort,  
he prefers his tea.

## Alan J. Wright

### C O A X I N G F O R T H P O E M S

Unwritten poems hide away  
Deep inside my pen of choice.  
I tell them it's safe out here  
and switch on the light.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/dodoitsu-poetic-forms> - Robert Lee Brewer