NEW HAMPSHIRE
Water Poetry Contest

2024 Water Poetry Contest
Eligibility, Theme & Rules

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Any New Hampshire student participating in grades 3 through 5, including homeschoolers.

THEME

Imagine a Day Without Water (and no bottled water either!)

Theme description: *Imagine a Day Without Water* challenges students to think about water security and how difficult daily tasks and basic hygiene would be without reliable access to clean water. What if it lasted for much longer than a day?

Questions to begin thinking about the poem theme: Imagine…

- How would you feel if your tap water suddenly stopped working?
- What does "reliable" mean?
- Where could you get water from if not from the tap **and** bottled water was not available from stores? How would you get the water home?
- How would cooking and cleaning change?
- If the toilet stopped flushing, what would you do?
- What would life be like if, instead of just a day, tap and bottled water were not available for years? Would you be able to go to school or would you need to haul water from a long distance for your family's daily needs? What does this mean for your ability to graduate?
- How else would no tap water affect you and your family member's lives?
- How would no water impact businesses and hospitals? What would this mean for your community?
- Who does not have access to reliable and clean water? Why?

Tips*:

- Watch and discuss the two "For Inspiration" videos with students. (How can we take care of the earth/water (beyond recycling)? Discuss the natural and societal functions of water in different images. Do students recognize the NH water scenes? Do they have similar places near their home? How do students feel?)

- Have students listen to "The Good Life" music while they write. (What was the composer trying to convey?)
- Use the past winners' poems as mentor text. (What is the author trying to say? Does the author use figurative language? What makes this a poem? What elements of poetry did the author use? What does it mean to you?)

* Methodology courtesy of Ann King, 4th grade teacher, Hinsdale Elementary, NH.

HOW TO SUBMIT A POEM, RULES & TERMS OF USE:

- Deadline for entries is **March 31, 2024.**
- All entries must be submitted by an adult sponsor (teacher/parent/guardian) using the online Entry Form.
- The number of entries is limited to one per student per year.
- All entries must relate to the chosen theme.
- Submission checklist:
    - Complete the online submission form and upload the poem.
    - Word is the preferred file format.
    - The poem's file name should be student name and the title of their poem, for example: Jacques Cousteau, Water is Life.
    - **Please <u>do not</u> include the student's name, school or any other identifier in the body of the attached poetry piece.** Judges will not have access to students' information, all they review is the poem itself.
- A panel of impartial judges will review the entries and select the top three poems. The poetry contest evaluation sheet is below.
- We will contact the adult sponsor to notify them if their student/child wins the New Hampshire Water Poetry Contest. At that point, we will request permissions to publish student information (name, grade, school, town, photo and to reproduce their poem) to announce the awards.
- Top placing students and a chaperone will be invited to join the in-person drinking water festival, located in Plymouth, NH on May 8, 2024, to receive their awards and present their poems. Attendance is highly encouraged but not required to place.
- Top placing students will be recognized with cash prizes and certificates.
- Information collected will only be used internally to track student participation, accept student entries, notify winners and distribute awards. We will not disclose information to third parties.

Water Poetry Contest
Evaluation Sheet

Name of Student(s)

Title of Poem

Relevance to Theme	0-5 points	_____
Creativity/ Style & Originality – Does the poem help you visualize something, inspire you, or make you think?	0-20 points	_____
Coherence of Form & Structure – Harmony of words	0-10 points	_____
Clarity of Imagery & Language	0-10 points	_____

Total: _____

(Max 45)

Comments: