



NEW HAMPSHIRE Water Poetry Contest

2025 Water Poetry Contest Eligibility, Theme & Rules

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

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

THEME

Water and Me

Theme description: Water and Me challenges students to reflect on their daily interactions with water, fostering a personal connection. Whether through activities, cleaning, personal hygiene, or drinking, this theme highlights the benefits water provides. It shifts the focus to appreciating water's value and emphasizes the importance of conservation to ensure its continued use.

Questions to begin thinking about the poem theme:

- How do you use water? Why is the way you use it important to you?
- What are some fun things you do that need water?
- What are some activities in your life that can't happen without water?
- What's your favorite way to use water at home? Why is that special to you?
- How does water help you stay healthy, and why is that important?
- Where do you think the water in your glass comes from? What kind of journey did it take to reach you?
- How would you describe the taste of water?
- How do you use virtual water? (<https://watercalculator.org/footprint/what-is-virtual-water/>)
- Why is having clean water so important? How does it affect how we use it?
- How can you protect and conserve water?
- If you were in charge of making sure everyone had enough water, what rules would you make?

Tips*:

- Watch and discuss the two "For Inspiration" videos with students. (How can we take care of water? 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, 2025**.
- ◆ 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 do not 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 Rochester, NH on May 7, 2025 (rain date May 8), 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.



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**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: