



NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER POETRY CONTEST

2027 Water Poetry Contest Eligibility, Theme and Rules

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

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

THEME

The Power of Water

Description: Water touches every moment of our lives—from washing to drinking or growing food, having clean water is necessary for a healthy life. Water impacts how we experience the world, our New Hampshire landscape includes streams, lakes, rivers and the Atlantic Ocean. *The Power of Water* invites students to reflect on their everyday interactions with this essential resource and transform those experiences into poetry.

Questions to begin thinking about the poem theme

- How is water powerful? What other words explain water?
- How do you use water? Why is it important?
- What are some fun things you do that need water?
- What in your life 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 does your drinking water come from? What kind of journey did it take?
- How would you describe the taste of water?
- How do you use virtual water?
 - *Virtual water* refers to the hidden water used in the production of goods and services—like the gallons needed to grow crops, raise livestock, or manufacture products—even if that water isn't visible in the final item.
- 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. Discussion prompts:
 - How do we take care of water?
 - What are 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. Discussion prompt: What was the composer trying to convey?
- Use past winners’ poems as inspirational text. Discussion prompts:
 - 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?
- Call the Oregon Tele-Poem Hotline - (503) 928-7008. You will hear a new poem every day read by state poets laureate!

**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 15, 2027**.
- 💧 All entries must be submitted by an adult sponsor (teacher, parent or guardian).
- 💧 Entries must be submitted 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.
- 💧 All styles and forms of poetry are welcome - whether it’s haiku, free verse, or experimental, every voice and vision has a place.
- 💧 Submission checklist:
 - Complete the online submission form and upload the poem.
 - PDF is the preferred file format.
 - Name the file using the student’s name and poem title (e.g., *Jacques Cousteau-Water is Life*).
- 💧 All identifying information on poetry submissions will be blocked out during judging.
- 💧 A panel of impartial judges will review the entries and select the top three poems. The poetry contest evaluation sheet is below.
- 💧 The adult sponsor will be notified if their student wins the New Hampshire Water Poetry Contest. If selected, we will request permission to publish the student’s information (name, grade, school, town, photo) and to reproduce their poem.
- 💧 Top placing students and a chaperone will be invited to join the in-person Drinking Water Festival, located in Keene, NH on May 5, 2027 (rain date May 6), 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, notify winners, distribute awards and announce winners. We will not disclose information to third parties.



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Water Poetry Contest Evaluation Sheet

Student Name:		
Title of Poem:		
Relevance to Theme	0-20 points	_____
Creativity/Style & Originality - Does the poem help you visualize something, inspire you, or make you think?	0-40 points	_____
Clarity of Imagery & Language	0-40 points	_____
Total:		

(Max 100)

Comments: