

14th Annual Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival

East Central University

Thursday, November 5, 2009

POETRY CONTEST

RULES:

Write a **free verse** (non-rhyming) **poem** that communicates significant themes depicting an **event** and that addresses the following criteria:

1. **Speaks in pictures** – concrete, specific language suggesting sensory details effectively enough to trigger mind movies about the event depicted.
2. **Speaks in natural voice** – a conversational voice that communicates a tone appropriate for the subject of the poem and not a fake voice trying to sound “poetic.”
3. **Makes use of contrast** – where elements of the story, such as conflicts within and among characters and in the situation depicted, work against each other to create a response in the reader.
4. **Surprises with language and situation** – displays originality in style and in the conception of the subject.
5. **Chooses words and phrases an formal features for maximum impact** – for example, the line length chosen reflects the tone of the poem, the lines end with thematically significant words, and the overall structure of the work suggests the subject.

The poem should be **typed** as a **one-page** document (either in Microsoft Word or Corel Word Perfect) and submitted to Dr. Teresa Rothrock in one of the following ways, to be received no later than **5:00 P. M. on Thursday, October 29, 2009**. No information that identifies the school, teacher, or student can be on the attached document itself (only the title of the poem). Identification information will be conveyed either through the email message or the fax cover sheet. Judging will be conducted by ECU faculty, and all results are final. Students must attend Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival workshops and closing session to be eligible for the contest.

Submission Options:

EMAIL – as an attachment to Dr. Teresa Rothrock <trothrock@ecok.edu>

- in the text of the email, identify the student's name and grade, the school, the sponsoring teacher, the title of the poem, and the school's phone number.

FAX – fax with cover sheet to (580) 436-3329, Attention: Dr. Teresa Rothrock

- in the cover sheet, identify the student's name and grade, the school, the sponsoring teacher, the title of the poem, the school's phone number, and preferred email for confirmation of receipt.

If a confirmation email has not been received within 48 hours, please contact Dr. Rothrock at (580) 559-5439.

NOTE: Submission to this contest give permission to Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival and East Central University to publish the winning works along with author's name and school on its web site.