

**POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE**  
**STUDENT CONTEST**  
**AWARDS TOTAL \$150 FOR POEMS AND FOR EYE-POEMS**

**Deadlines**

- **Junior (Grades 6-8) and Senior (Grades 9-12) Divisions, Free Verse — December 11, 2019**
- **Elementary Division, Any Form (Grades 2-5) — February 15, 2020**
- **Eye-Poems (all divisions) — February 15, 2020**

All winners will be announced at the Poetry Society of Tennessee-West Tennessee Chapter Meeting on April 4, 2020. Winners of the Junior and Senior free verse poetry competitions will be forwarded on to compete in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Manningham Trust Poetry Competition in March 2020. Winning poems (both written and eye poems) will also be published in the Poetry Society of Tennessee's annual anthology, *Tennessee Voices*.

**Written Poems**

**1. The competition is open to all TENNESSEE students in grades 2-12.** Public, private, and home school students are eligible. Non-Tennessee residents may compete by joining the Poetry Society of Tennessee as Student Members. See our website (<https://www.poetrytennessee.org/membership.html>) for more information.

**2. Submit two single spaced copies of each poem.** There should be no large or unusual fonts or illustrations. Times New Roman is the suggested font type; no font larger than 12 point will be accepted. All poems must have 1-inch margins (top, bottom, and sides).

**3. Identification must be as follows:**

One copy must have student's ID in upper right corner. The ID information is student name, school name and address, student grade level, and the student's language arts/English teacher's full name. An example is shown below:

John Doe  
Crosstown Elementary  
Memphis, TN XXXX  
Grade 5  
Teacher: Mrs. Jane Smith

Put the division in the upper left corner of **both** copies.

- Elementary — Grades 2-5
- Junior — Grades 6-8
- Senior — Grades 9-12

**4. Each poem must have no more than 35 lines (including line breaks between stanzas) with no line having more than 60 characters including spaces and punctuation.** Every poem entered should appear on a single sheet.

**5. Entrant must make a declaration of originality.** The statement should appear on the bottom of the IDed copy only. The form below is acceptable:

*I certify that this poem is my original work, and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poems in print or posted on the Internet.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Teachers' Submission Instructions.** Do not staple the two copies of the poem together. Place the poems without the name in one pile and the IDed poems in the other, and mail to the address below. If submitting as a homeschooled student or independently (outside of class), please mail to the address below.

### **Eye Poem Instructions**

1. 8 1/2x11 maximum size.
2. A 1-inch margin (top, bottom, and sides) must be around each eye poem.
3. Additional information about Eye Poems may be found on our website (<https://www.poetrytennessee.org/eye-poems.html>).
4. Original or color copy may be submitted. One poem may be submitted per student and should be mailed to Frances Cowden by February 15, 2020.
5. Identification information should be taped lightly to the back of the eye poem.

### **Send entries to:**

**Frances Cowden  
STUDENT CONTEST  
8432 Wood Shadows Lane  
Cordova, TN 38018**

**Email to [gmoeath@gmail.com](mailto:gmoeath@gmail.com) for questions or requests for hand delivery.**

**ALL POEMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE.**