**For Immediate Release**

**POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE ANNOUNCES STUDENT POETRY CONTEST**

**August 1, 2020, Memphis, Tenn.** – The Poetry Society of Tennessee (PST) invites student poets to participate in their annual student poetry contest, open to all Tennessee-based students entering grades two through twelve in the coming school year. The contest includes two categories: written poetry and eye poems. Winning poems will be sent to national level contests and may be published.

Contest categories for written poetry forms include the following:

* Elementary (Grades 2-5) — Any Form
* Middle School (Grades 6-8) — Free Verse
* High School (Grades 9-12) — Free Verse

The eye poem category is for second through twelfth graders. An eye poem is a poetic collage of visual and verbal imagery. Students combine images from magazine pages with words, phrases and clauses on a single page to create a free verse poem. The objective is to create a mood or inspiration. Learn more and see examples <https://bit.ly/eyepoem>.

PST President Lori Goetz is pleased to announce that Ms. Frances Cowden is this year’s Student Contest Coordinator. Ms. Cowden is a long-time member of PST-West chapter who has been recognized by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies for Student Poetry Contest leadership.

Contest submission deadlines vary by category and grade levels, from December 2020 to February 2021. The PST Student Contest Brochure, available at <https://bit.ly/sbroch2021>, outlines contest details, including specific deadlines, formatting requirements and submission methods.

One of PST’s central values is to encourage young poets. Ms. Goetz invites students, teachers and parents to become involved. She reflects, “In past years, many teachers have integrated poetry writing as a class activity and submitted students’ final poems to the contest at the end of the lesson.” She adds, “The contest is also a great opportunity for home-school organizations and clubs to explore poetry. We also accept individual student submissions.”

For more information about the society and contest, visit [www.poetrysocietytennessee.com](http://www.poetrysocietytennessee.com). Questions about the contest may be directed to Frances Cowden at gmoearth@gmail.com. Questions about PST may be directed to Lori Goetz at poetrytennessee@gmail.com.

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**About Poetry Society of Tennessee**

Poetry Society of Tennessee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded by poets for poets in Memphis in 1953 and is a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. It is an inclusive, supportive, "learn by doing" club with members who range from beginners to accomplished poets. Members also include non-writers who simply enjoy poetry. The society has three chapters: West Tennessee, based in Memphis; Northeast Tennessee, based in Johnson City; and Knoxville. Membership is open to adults of all ages; student memberships are also available. For more information, visit [www.poetrytennessee.org](http://www.poetrytennessee.org).

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