



“VOICES OF PIKE” 2020 POETRY CONTEST

Pike County Cooperative Extension Fine Arts, in cooperation with Pikeville Poetry and Appalachia Book Company, is excited to invite you to participate in the third annual “Voices of Pike” poetry contest. This is a poetry contest open to all Pike County students grades K-12, including all homeschooled students within Pike County. The contest will also include an adult component of either poetry or essay.

Works of writing generated by this contest are meant to inspire unity and progress, as well as provide students an opportunity to express their creativity. Writers should focus on “*how the world is and how we want it to be*” with an emphasis on issues they see and solutions they imagine.

Reply to:

Pikeville Poetry
pikevillepoetry@gmail.com

or

Emily Nelson
Fine Arts Program Assistant
emilyknelson@uky.edu

Cooperative Extension Service

Pike County
148 Trivette Drive
Pikeville, KY 41501-1271
(606) 432-2534
(800) 233-1390
Fax: (606) 432-2536
pike.ca.uky.edu

The theme should center the following quote by Kentuckian Crystal Wilkinson, an award-winning author, educator, and feminist:

“We are the truth keepers of our time. That is our duty as artists — to reflect both how the world is and how we want it to be...Without the artist we are lost — devoid of hope and the capacity to dream a new way of understanding and living. What we do is absolutely life-giving. So many lives have been saved by art.”

*This quote is from an article published by the University of Kentucky -
<https://uknow.uky.edu/professional-news/uks-crystal-wilkinson-wins-prestigious-united-states-artists-fellowship>

Wilkinson is a founding member of the The Affrilachian Poets, a group of African American writers who share roots in Appalachia and work to defy the persistent stereotype of a racially homogenized rural region. Notable works by Crystal Wilkinson include *The Birds of Opulence*, *Water Street*, and *Blackberries*. Wilkinson is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the 10th Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. She currently teaches as an associate professor of English in the MFA Creative Writing Program at the University of Kentucky, and was recently selected as a 2020 United States Artists Fellow.

Winning works will be selected on the following criteria: Theme, Originality and Quality. Selected poems will be featured at a community gathering and awards ceremony on April 21st at 6pm at the Pike County Extension Office. Writers may have the opportunity to have their work published and may potentially be included in a local public mural. **There will also be a prize offered for each category: Elementary (K-5); Middle School (6-8); High School (9-12); Adult Poetry and Adult Essay.**



Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

RULES & REGULATIONS:

- I.** The student must be enrolled in grades K-12 at a Pike County Public School, Pikeville Independent, other private educational institution, or a homeschool cooperative.
- II.** The three K-12 categories are defined by grades: Elementary (K-5); Middle School (6-8); and High School (9-12).
- III.** Adult category is defined as anyone older than 18 not enrolled in high school.
- IV.** The subject matter is to be a poem in any conception or form, OR an essay (adult option).
- V.** The adult essay contest is limited to 1,000 words.
- VI.** The poem has no minimum length but should not be longer than 30 lines.
- VII.** The entry must be inspired by or otherwise respond to the prompt listed on this application.
- VIII.** All submissions become the property of Pikeville Poetry and will be considered for publication in a forthcoming anthology and may appear online. Entrants retain copyright on his/her own individual work.
- IX.** Entries must include the completed attached information sheets with contact information and information about the work, and the media release form. If the student is under age 18, the forms must be signed by a parent or guardian.

The deadline for submission is April 3, 2020.

Teachers whose students have entries for this contest must notify Emily Nelson at the info listed below so that entries may be picked up. Winners will be notified by April 10th and given the option to read their winning poems at a community gathering taking place on April 21st at 6pm at the Pike County Extension Office. All selected works must be approved by the jury committee. Entries will NOT be returned; non-winning entries will be kept for potential publication.

To report submissions or if you have any questions, please contact:

Emily Nelson
Pike County Extension Fine Arts
emilyknelson@uky.edu
(606) 432-2534

OR

Pikeville Poetry
pikevillepoetry@gmail.com



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ENTRY FORM

Poet’s Name: _____

Name of Poem: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Student Email (optional): _____

Sponsor/Teacher Name: _____

Sponsor/Teacher Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

If selected, would the student be willing and available to read their poem at an event on April 21st at Pikeville Extension Office?

CIRCLE ONE: YES NO

I, the undersigned, certify that the poem submitted here is my original and un plagiarized work. I agree to abide by the terms, rules, and regulations outlined in this application.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (if student is under 18)

Date

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