POETRY

Format: Online

Early Submission Requirements:

- Competitors must submit their Poetry piece weeks before the Regional Tournament.

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Poetry must clearly reflect upon any aspect of this year's theme.
2. Submissions must be labeled with the MIST ID and the title only.
   a. The competitor's name must not appear anywhere on the work.
3. Competitors may incorporate any style or genres of poetry including rhymed, lyric, dramatic, narrative, or free verse.
4. No forms of AI are permitted for this competition. Any usage is grounds for point loss and/or disqualification.
5. All poems must have a title and must not exceed 40 lines in length (excluding title).
6. Poems must be the original work of the entrant.
   a. Entries must not have been published, self-published, published on a website or broadcast before January 2026
7. A PDF copy of the poem must be submitted via MyMIST two weeks before the Regional Tournament.
   a. Late submissions will result in a point deduction on your final score.
8. This will be an entirely virtual competition. As such, competitors are not required to turn in a copy during the tournament.
9. Entries should be typed in black ink only.
10. Entries can be double or single-spaced.
11. Poetry submissions must include a filled-out "Poetry Analyzing Written Statement."

Checklist:

- PDF copy of Poetry Piece and Written Poetry Analyzing Statement submitted on MyMIST 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- Both the submission and the written statement should be clearly labeled with:
  - MIST IDs
  - Name of Competition

POETRY ANALYZING WRITTEN STATEMENT

The following worksheet should be included with your poetry submission. The responses to each section must be typed, not handwritten.

Section 1: Poem Identity
1. Form of Poetry (i.e. Ballad, Sonnet, etc)

Section 2: Explanation of Poem
1. Provide an explanation for your poem in 250 words or less.

Section 3: Elements of Poetry
1. Identify at least five (5) elements of poetry from your writing.
2. State the line number in which the example can be found, the type of element it is, and then explain your example (i.e. alliteration, metaphor, assonance, personification, etc).

Section 4: Example of Inferences
1. Provide an example of inference from your writing.
2. State the line number and explain what it is that you wished to infer (i.e. historical inference, literary inference, etc).

Section 5: Mechanics, Grammar, Spelling
(All answers must be answered within 500 words or less).
1. In what ways does your piece represent your individuality? What inspired or influenced you when writing your piece?
2. Are there any subtleties in the piece you were wishing would come across to the audience without having to be explained?
3. Do you feel you conveyed the theme well in your piece? How did you do so?

DETAILED BALLOT: POETRY

Section A: Technical   **Points: 10**

- The poem does not exceed 40 lines.
- The "Poetry Worksheet" is completed.
- The poem is typed in black ink only.
- The participant gives no identifiers aside from their MIST ID.

Section B: Poem Elements   **Points: 30**

- Is the poetry piece free from any inappropriate content? If not, do not score the rest of the section; competitor receives 0/25. If so, continue scoring.
- Is the structure of the piece easy to follow?
- Is the form of the poem appropriate to the subject? Does the poem enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a more potent way than ever before?
- Does the poem use sensory details and figurative language to create vivid images that contribute significantly to the meaning of the poem?
- Are sound devices, such as rhyme, alliteration, or onomatopoeia, used effectively and contribute to the meaning of the poem?
- Is word choice vivid and exact throughout?

Section C: Overall Impression of Written Piece   **Points: 25**

- Is the title clearly stated?
- Does the piece create an appropriate mood?
- Does the competitor's writing convey creativity and originality?
- Does the competitor's writing grab your attention and convey sincerity?

Section D: Written Statement Criteria   **Points: 25**

- Section 1 Poem Identity
- Section 2 Coherent Explanation
- Section 3 Elements of Poetry
- Section 4 Example of Inference
- Section 5 Mechanics, Grammar, Spelling
- Interview Questions

Section E: Overall Experience   **Points: 10**

After review of the poem, rate the entire experience from 1 to 10:

- 1 being very poor (no organization, intonation, or relation to the theme)
- 4 to 6 being average
- 10 being exceptional (memorable performance, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional poetic content)

POETRY BALLOT

		Subtotal
Section A	Technical	_____ / 10 points
Section B	Poem Elements	_____ / 30 points
Section C	Overall Impression	_____ / 25 points
Section D	Written Statement Criteria	_____ / 25 points
Section E	Overall Experience	_____ / 10 points

Total: _____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____