

Sponsoring a Poetry Competition

San Antonio Public Library

mysapl.org

guides.mysapl.org/youngpegasus



Young Pegasus @ SAPL

- On-going yearly poetry competition
- Began in 1927
- Publish annual anthology
- Many Young Pegasus poets have gone on to make a name for themselves.
 - Mystery writer Jay Brandon
 - Poet Naomi Shihab Nye
 - Former mayor Henry Cisneros



Why Sponsor a Poetry Competition?

- In a Public Library setting:
 - Allow a new (different) set of children to shine.
 - Encourage and recognize young writers.
 - Build a relationship with our colleagues in the schools.
- In a School Library or Classroom setting:
 - Introduce students to the structures and elements of poetry.
 - Provide opportunities to read and evaluate works of published poets.
 - Build a relationship with your colleagues in the public library.



Getting Started

- Who can enter?
- How do they enter?
- When do they enter?
- Who will judge the poems?
- How will the poems be judged?
- What is your philosophy of winning?
- How will you recognize and reward the winners?



About the Judging

- Seven judges.
- Divide poems by age groups, divide age groups into seven packets.
- Judges read packets independently and “move forward” any poems they deem worthy of publication. Some poems are eliminated.
- Working age group by age group, judges meet to deliberate on the poems that have been moved forward. Some poems are eliminated.
- At the final judges meeting, all the poems still in contention receive a final reading. Some poems are eliminated. Remaining poems make up the anthology.
- At this point, there are only two reasons a poem would not be published:
 - Plagiarism
 - Failure to submit release form



2009 YP Statistics

Age Category	Poems Received	Poems Moved Forward	Poems in Final Read	Poems in Anthology
Up to 8	85	31	14	11
9 to 11	799	119	42	32
12 to 14	632	88	28	18
15 to 18	234	87	44	25
Total	1750	325	128	86



Time Line

- September through December: Poems submitted.
- January through February: Judges deliberate.
- March: Plagiarism check; Winning poets notified; Anthology goes into production.
- April: Anthology goes to press; Invitations mailed; Poets not selected are notified.
- May: Awards Ceremony.



Budget

- Printing & Binding the Anthology: \$2000
- Supplies, Printing & Mailing: \$300
- Hospitality for the Judges: \$300
- Awards Ceremony: \$400

- Total: \$3000



For more information

- mysapl.org
- guides.mysapl.org/youngpegasus
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- Questions?

