



# **Morris McCorvey Youth Poetry Prize Submission Guidelines**

The Morris McCorvey Youth Poetry Prize was established in memory of beloved poet, teacher, and community leader Morris McCorvey. Spearheaded by his family and the poetry group he founded and ran for years, this prize honors Morris's dedication to encouraging young voices in the arts. Funding for the prize comes from his "Hoboetry" project—a jazz poetry vinyl he released shortly before his passing. This special award, part of the annual Bartlesville Public Library Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contest, invites young poets to celebrate their creativity, gain valuable experience, and share their work with the community.

## **Contest Categories and Prizes:**

### **3rd to 5th Grade:**

- 1st Place: \$75
- 2nd Place: \$50
- 3rd Place: \$25

### **6th to 8th Grade:**

- 1st Place: \$75
- 2nd Place: \$50
- 3rd Place: \$25

## General Rules:

### Eligibility:

- All contestants must be current Bartlesville Public Library cardholders. Library cards are available for free at the library's circulation desk.
- Only original, unpublished poetry submissions will be accepted. Previously published work or work that has received cash or other material benefits from previous contests is ineligible.

**Multiple Submissions:** Students may submit more than one poem. However, a student may win only one prize per category.

**Submission Method:** All entries should be emailed as a PDF attachment to [Bartlesville-FOTL@yahoo.com](mailto:Bartlesville-FOTL@yahoo.com). For alternative submission methods, please contact the Bartlesville Friends of the Library at the same email.

### Manuscript Format:

**Length:** Poems should not exceed 60 lines

**Spacing:** Double spaced

**Font:** Times New Roman or Courier, 12 pt.

**Margins:** One inch margins on all sides

**Alignment:** Left justified

**Title:** Placed at the top of the first page only

**Page Numbers:** Paginated in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, etc.)

**Anonymity:** The writer's name or any identifying information should not appear anywhere in the document. This ensures fair, blind judging.

### Submission Requirements:

Each submission should include:

- An entry form for each poem
- A signed Release of Liability form
- A signed Morris McCorvey Youth Poetry Prize Agreement

**No Folded or Stapled Entries:** Please avoid folding or stapling manuscripts.

### Important Notes:

**Deadline:** All entries must be received by February 1st, 2025.

**Payment:** There is no entry fee for the Morris McCorvey Youth Poetry Prize.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact the Friends of the Library at [BartlesvilleFOTL@yahoo.com](mailto:BartlesvilleFOTL@yahoo.com).

## Release of Liability

I, the Undersigned participant, desire to participate in the Creative Writing Contest promoted by the Friends of the Library. Accordingly, I hereby freely and voluntarily, with full understanding of the meaning of this Release and without duress, execute this Release, Waiver of liability for the benefit of the Friends of the Library.

I grant, convey, authorize and permit, the Friends of the Library to publish my work product, that was submitted to the Friends of the Library as a result of participating in the Creative Writing Contest, where the Friends of the Library deem appropriate.

I, Waive, Release and forever discharge and hold harmless the Friends of the Library and its successors and assigns from any and all liability, claims, demands, and or causes of action of whatever kind or nature, as a result of using my creative work product.

**If a minor child is participating in the Creative Writing Contest, it will be necessary that the participant's parent or legal guardian sign on their behalf.**

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Name of Participant

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Signature of Participant

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Signature of Parent of Legal Guardian

## Friends of the Library Creative Writing Contest Agreement

Contest entries are to be original, unpublished work written by the person entering the contest.

**Judges will check for plagiarism, and entries that do not meet these standards will be disqualified.**

Plagiarism includes:

\*copying another's words directly and presenting them as your own without quotation marks and direct indication of whose words you are copying

\*copying significant phrases, clauses, and passages from another source without quotation marks and proper acknowledgment.

\*paraphrasing another writer's work by altering some words but communicating the same essential point(s) made by the original author without proper acknowledgment.

\*presenting someone else's ideas or factual discoveries as your own.

*My signature below indicates that I have read, understand and accept these definitions of plagiarism and the consequences of breaking the rules.*

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date

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## Morris McCorvey Youth Poetry Prize—ENTRY FORM

I wish to enter the Morris McCorvey Youth Poetry Prize.

I have read and understand the rules. I am eligible for the Division entered.

3rd-5th Grade

6th-8th Grade

ENTRY TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Each entry should be accompanied by a separate entry form. Entry forms may be reproduced.

Winners will be announced at the FOTL annual meeting and awards ceremony in April. All contestants are invited to attend the ceremony. Winning entries only will be bound into a book available in the Reference and Local & Family History Departments of the Library.

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