



PRIZE JUDGING CRITERIA

Short List Criteria

Appearance	poem starts on new page	right length	right width	no widows/orphans	good use of white space
Formatting	correct font	correct font size	double spaced	page numbers	collection title in footer
Punctuation, Spelling & Grammar	correct punctuation	correct spelling	correct grammar		
Comprehension & Conclusion	makes sense	has a clear message	has a conclusion	has depth/layers	tension and release
Universality	adds to understanding	insightful	a-ha moment	relatable to others	translatable
Free Verse	normal pauses	natural phrases	occasional rhyme	no set rhythm	lines of varying length
Other Forms	rhyme scheme	metre/syllables	lines/stanzas	turn/twist	subject matter
Structure and Line Breaks	broke lines for emphasis /sound	broke across stanza	enjambment	caesura	creative structure
Imagery and Emotions	messages illustrated	well defined images	appropriate images	can see the images	evoked emotions
Language	matches tone/mood	effective sound use	synonyms used	no clichés	no overused images
Rhyme	slant	alliteration	assonance	consonance	internal
Repetition and Rhythm	consistent rhythm	regular metre	regular syllables	successful repetition	consistent with mood
Poetic Devices	abstraction	personification	simile	metaphor/metonym	synecdoche

Scoring

Each category will be judged from Weak (1) to Outstanding (6).

Weak	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5	6

An entry that has an outstanding appearance of 6, will have poems that start on a new page, are the correct length and width, have no widows/orphans (lines hanging off the end of a page) and a good use of white space on the page.

An entry that has a weak appearance of 1, will have none of the listed attributes (starts on new page, line length, etc).

Notes

As this is a competition for emerging and aspiring poets, it is not expected that you will score on every category, rather that you will attempt to include some of these elements in your work. In fact no poem by an established poet will have all the elements, however, excellent poems demonstrate strength in multiple areas.

So for example, you don't have to rhyme or use a rhythm. Instead your poem may contain strong imagery and poetic devices such as metaphor.

Please Note

Collections which have poems that are not the right length or width will be automatically disqualified.

Winning Entry Criteria

How well does the collection work as a whole?	unifying theme	excellent use of form	consistent quality	intriguing title	title reflects the contents
How good are the poetics of the collection?	telling it slant	use of poetic devices	shows through images	repetition and rhythm	has incredible language
How relatable is the collection?	relatable and universal	adds to understanding	thought provoking	evokes emotions	comforting / challenging

Note: If you are unfamiliar with any of the terms used in this document, you can refer to the Poetry Foundation's Glossary of Terms.