

Poetry Contest for Students from the English Department

Gaithersburg Book Festival's Annual High School Poetry Contest to Focus on Theme of Diversity or Inclusion

The Gaithersburg Book Festival is proud to announce its annual high school poetry contest is now open for submissions. The theme for 2023 is diversity or inclusion. First and second place winners will receive \$250 and \$100, respectively. Third place and fan favorite winners will receive \$50 and \$25, respectively.

Winners will be announced at the Gaithersburg Book Festival, which is taking place May 20, 2023, at [Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm](#) (506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877).

To participate, students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 at a public or private school, or be in a homeschool program, for the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, entrants must reside in Maryland, Virginia or the District of Columbia. This year, students are asked to craft a poem on one theme: either diversity or inclusion.

Poems should be:

- Submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx)
- Typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman
- One page in length
- File name should be the title of the poem only (e.g., The_Red_Fern.doc)
- Don't include the name of the student or school in the file name
- Must be the original work of the student and not previously published online or in print.

By submitting work to the contest, students grant the Gaithersburg Book Festival a non-exclusive license to publish, distribute, transmit and exhibit the poem, and any portions thereof, via any medium without financial compensation. Poems must be submitted electronically via web at <https://fs30.formsite.com/GBurgMD/GBFpoetrycontest/index.html> by midnight ET on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

Up to 12 poems will be selected as finalists and posted on the Gaithersburg Book Festival website prior to the Festival. Finalists will also be asked to record a video of themselves reading their poems, which will be posted on the Gaithersburg Book Festival website. Complete rules and regulations can be found online at <https://www.gaithersburgbookfestival.org/gbf-programs/poetry-contest/>. Questions can be emailed to writingcontest@gaitersburgbookfestival.org.