

Botetourt County Library's 2016 Poetry Contests

Botetourt County Library will be holding its annual Poetry Contest in March. Anyone in 6th grade or above may participate.

Poems will be judged in four groups: Grades 6-7, Grades 8-9, Grades 10-12 and Adult. Poems should not exceed 35 lines in length. Students should include their name, grade, phone number, e-mail address, teacher's name and school on the back of their poems. Adults should include name, phone number and e-mail address on the back of their entries. There is a limit of two poems per person. Anyone who would like their poems returned should also include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Cash prizes will be provided by the Botetourt County Friends of the Library to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age group.

In addition to the traditional contest the library will also have a *Blackout Poetry* contest for youth in grades 6-12.

Blackout poetry is poetry made by using a page from a newspaper or an old book, and blacking out various words in the text with a permanent marker leaving behind only a few select words to make a poem.

The Blackout Poetry contest will be judged in two divisions: Best Poem and Best Original Art (made by using the space blacked out). Examples of *Blackout Poetry* along with old book and newspaper pages may be found at all four branches of the library.

There is a limit of two poems per person in this contest, too. Students may enter both contests.

Poems may be submitted from March 1 through 31 at the libraries in Blue Ridge, Buchanan, Eagle Rock, Fincastle and the Bookmobile. Entries may also be mailed to: Jackie Howarth, Botetourt County Library Poetry Contest, P.O. Box 129, Fincastle, VA 24090.

Winners will be invited to share their works at the awards ceremony at the Fincastle Library on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 PM.

For additional information please contact Steve Vest at 977-3433 or Jackie Howarth at 473-8339.