

Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

2016-2017 FSPA Student Poetry Contest

Deadline: Entries may be submitted as early as Sept. 15, 2016. The deadline is Dec. 1, 2016

Entry Fee: None Qualifications: Florida students in Grades 6 through 12

PRIZES: Lee Bennett Hopkins, the noted poet and anthologist (see page 2), has provided a generous donation which will provide cash prizes for all first, second and third-place winners in our student contest as well as FSPA membership for one year. We are pleased to announce that beginning this year, first place winners in each grade level will be recipients of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Young People.

Cash prizes in each grade level are as follows: 1st place (the Lee Bennett Hopkins Award)--\$25, 2nd place--\$15, and 3rd place--\$10. These winners will also receive copies of FSPA's *Anthology 35*, in which their winning poems will be published. All winners, including honorable mentions, will receive award certificates.....Winning poems will be entered in the prestigious National Federation of State Poetry Societies' Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest, where they will compete for more cash awards with prize-winning poems from other states.

- RULES:
1. One poem per student.
 2. The poem must be an original work by the student, written in English.
 3. Type the poem on standard computer paper, in 12 pt. font (Times New Roman preferred), single-spaced, for ease in judging and scanning for publication. Do NOT illustrate in any manner.
 4. Unless the poem is a haiku (the first line being its title), it must have a separate title.
 5. Poems may be rhymed or unrhymed, in any form, including free verse.
 6. Poems must be no longer than 30 lines, all on one page.
 7. Subject: Student's choice, but subject and language must be appropriate for reading by young students who may receive a copy of the anthology in which winning poems are printed.

FORMAT: Submit two copies of the poem, as follows, with all information printed or typed neatly:

- A. On both copies print or type the division: *Junior*—(grades 6-8) or *Senior*—(grades 9-12) in the upper left hand corner. No other identification should appear on the first copy.
- B. On the second copy only, place all following information in the upper right hand corner.

Grade: _____ Student Name: _____
Student's Address: (Street) _____
(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____
Name & Complete Address of School: _____
Teacher's Full Name : _____ School District: _____

CERTIFICATION: On the second copy only, students must certify the originality of the poem, which cannot be copied in whole or part from any other author's work, including poems posted on the internet. Please place this statement at the bottom of the second copy. This is the same certification required by the Manningham contest and should be worded as follows:

"I, (written signature) , certify that the entire poem _____ (title) _____, is my own original work."

Note: Any poems that do not follow the above requirements, format, and certification may be disqualified. Submission to this contest should be done with the understanding that announcement of the winners' names, teachers, and schools may appear on the FSPA website and in its newsletter.

JUDGES: Well-qualified out-of-state judges will select the winning poems.

NOTIFICATION: Winners will be notified after March 5, 2017.

MAIL ENTRIES TO: Janet Watson, FSPA Student Poetry Contest, 7908 West Drive, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544
(E-mail only for further information: JMPWAT@aol.com. Poems submitted by e-mail will not be accepted)

ABOUT LEE BENNETT HOPKINS:

FSPA is most grateful for Lee Bennett Hopkins' support of our Student Poetry Contest. We are pleased to initiate the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Young People in our 2016-2017 Student Poetry Contest, for first-place winners in each grade level.

Mr. Hopkins is an award-winning poet and is also recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's most prolific anthologist of poetry for children, with more than 120 titles to his credit. He has received numerous awards for his work and his support of poetry for children. He lives in Cape Coral, Florida, and was a nominee for Florida Poet Laureate. He is currently an Honorary FSPA Chancellor.

We invite you to learn more about his efforts to encourage young poets on his website: www.leebennetthopkins.com.
