

YOUNG WRITERS CONTEST

Contest Tips: Poetry

**When rhyming,
choose
interesting
rhymes that
aren't easily
guessed.**

Make intentional word choices as well as line breaks. In free verse, last words of lines and how each line stops can help create music and suggest meaning.

Avoid poems about abstractions that are very general (love, justice, beauty...) unless you include details that ground the poem so that readers can better visualize your meaning.

**Give details
that show rather
than tell so that
the reader is able
to make
discoveries.**

Create characters that have original characteristics and personalities – not simple copies of something you have seen elsewhere.

**Choose a title
that indicates
the focus of
your piece or
reflects its
meaning.**