



To Teachers & Administrators:

Houston Poetry Fest is offering an opportunity for young poets, aged 14 and under, to win Houston Poetry Fest's Mary Villarreal Award for Younger Poets. The winner will receive a \$100 prize and be invited to read the winning poem at the festival in October.

Any type of poetry is acceptable, and there is no entry fee.

Deadline: October 5, 2015

Included in this packet:

- An 8.5X11 poster that can be printed out in color or black and white.
- Some instructions for teachers to give to students orally if they wish.

Houston Poetry Fest began in 1985, and we are proud to be expanding again this year and look forward to many more years of supporting young poets and including them in the festival.

For more information on the festival, please go to HoustonPoetryFest.info.

The URL for submissions and instructions is:

houstonpoetryfest.submittable.com/submit/a323a979-1772-42e6-835d-8df8da9befe1

Thank you!

Points That Teachers Might Make for Students Submitting for the Mary Villarreal Award

Teachers, these are just sample points that you might want to use or not. You probably have some of your own.

- Be careful to follow the guidelines exactly.
 - If you do not follow the guidelines exactly, your poem or poems will not be considered for judging.
 - VERY IMPORTANT: Make sure that you do *not* put your name or any other information that would let the judges know who wrote the poem or poems on the poems themselves. The judges only see the poetry, not who wrote it.
 - In the “Cover Letter,” you need to put your name, contact information and the titles of the poems.
 - For your short bio, you might include your school, your teacher or teachers, and why or how long you have been writing poetry. If you have been published or been selected for readings by other places—such as Public Poetry, Words & Art, etc.—please include that.
 - The “Title” section is not for the title of a poem. It is intended as a title for the group of poems. You can simply put “Younger Poet Submission” or some other title as you wish. Do not put your name.
- Make certain that your grammar and spelling are correct.
 - Get your teacher to check for spelling or other errors.
 - If you can, get one other person to look for any technical errors.
 - As far as the creative writing itself, you are the poet, and even if people give you advice on your writing, you are the one who makes the final decision on the content of your work.
- Read your poem or poems aloud many times.
 - This will help you find any words that might be missing and will help you feel how the poem can sound when read aloud.
 - If you are picked to read at the festival, you will already have some practice.
- Be careful about submitting a very new poem.
 - You can submit new poems, of course, but sometimes we fall in love with the poem we just wrote. Make sure that any poem you submit is a sample of your best work.
 - Get others whose opinions you trust to read and give you feedback.
- If you are not selected, don’t feel bad. Use this as an experience that will help you in the future if you want to submit poetry for publication.



Call for Submissions: Younger Poets

Poets aged 14 or younger are eligible for the **Mary Villarreal Award**. Prize includes an award of \$100, and the winner will read the winning poem at the Houston Poetry Fest in October. There is no entry fee.

The Mary Villarreal Award was established by Richard Gamez in honor of his late mother who loved children. A \$100 prize is awarded to the winner. Houston Poetry Fest is partnering with Writers in the Schools (WITS) to offer this opportunity to Houston's young poets.

Deadline: October 5, 2015

Guidelines for submissions are on Submittable at:

houstonpoetryfest.submittable.com/submit/a323a979-1772-42e6-835d-8df8da9befe1

Houston Poetry Fest is an annual event that began in 1985. The festival includes three days of poetry performances, an anthology and workshops, as well as satellite events around Houston and the Houston area leading up to and extending beyond the festival weekend.

Houston Poetry Fest, an annual celebration of poetry and those who create it, is sponsored by Houston Poetry Fest, a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization, 100% staffed by unpaid volunteers, and is co-sponsored by the Department of English and the Cultural Enrichment Center of the University of Houston - Downtown.