

April is National Poetry Month!

Callaway County Youth POETRY CONTEST

The Callaway County Public Library, the Callaway Arts Council and the Auxvasse Creative Arts Program invite all Callaway County children to enter the Callaway County Youth Poetry Contest. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each age group (5 to 8 years old, 9 to 12 years old and 13 to 18 years old), including \$50 from Central Bank for each first place winner! Wayne Zade, local poet and Westminster professor, will select the winners. A brief awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 29 at the Callaway County Public Library in Fulton.

Poetry Assignment Details

5 to 8 Age Group: Write a poem that uses both a simile and the five senses to describe something. For example ...

My dog is like a pile of laundry.
He feels like an old, soft towel after I take a bath.
He smells like the dirty sock I left in my shoe.
He looks like a yellow mountain taking a nap.
He sounds like a wave when he yawns.

9 to 12 Age Group: Write a poem about something you like to do. Focus on using alliteration (words that start with same sound in each line, such as “bobbled and battled the baseball in the bold, blinding sun”). Make sure you give the details about what you like to do. For example, tell where you ride your bike and what you do when you’re riding. Pay more attention to describing exactly what you do, than to telling how you feel when you’re doing it.

13 to 18 Age Group: Write a poem on any subject that has no more than 10 syllables in each line. Strive to achieve iambic pentameter: 10 syllables in each line with five pairs of alternating unstressed and stressed syllables. The rhythm in each line of iambic pentameter sounds like: ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM / ba-BUM. For example, “If **mu-** / -sic **be** / the **food** / of **love**, / play **on**” (Shakespeare).

Contest Rules

- Poems must be at least 10, but no more than 25 lines long.
- Entrants must reside or attend school in Callaway County and be between the ages of 5 and 18.
- Entries should include the child’s name, age, address, parent’s or guardian’s name, phone number, e-mail address (if available), school, grade and teacher’s name.
- *Deadline is April 5, 2010.* Entries may be turned in at the Callaway County Public Library, submitted by e-mail to jenny@catchphrasepr.com or mailed to Callaway County Public Library, ATTN: Youth Poetry Contest, 710 Court Street, Fulton, MO 65251. Mailed entries must be postmarked by April 2, 2010.
- For the 5 to 8 age group, an adult may help the child type or write their entry.

