Historic Oakwood Cemetery

Poetry Contest 2021

For more than 152 years, Oakwood Cemetery has been a place where the community has come to reflect on life and death, enjoy nature, and remember.

In that spirit of reflection and remembrance, Oakwood Cemetery, in collaboration with So & So Books, is hosting a poetry contest for students in grades 3 through 12 and adults ages 19 and up, inspired by an experience with Oakwood Cemetery. Though pertinent themes are endless, here are suggested themes to inspire your creativity: life and death, wildlife and nature, art, grief, and memory.

Submission guidelines

* The contest is open to North Carolinians from grades 3 through 12 and ages 19 and up.
* Writers with a published volume of poetry are not eligible to apply.
* Contestants may submit up to 3 poems of any style or form. Each submission cannot exceed 3 pages.
* Entries may not have been previously published in print or online, including personal blogs or websites.
* All entries must be typed and titled.
* Do not type poems in all capital letters.
* Do not include your name on the page with your poem. Instead, include your name, address, phone number and email address on a separate, cover sheet. If under age 18, please include the name and contact information for a parent.
* Please email entries to the appropriate address for your grade/age:

Oakwoodpoemgrades3to5@gmail.com

Oakwoodpoemgrades6to8@gmail.com

Oakwoodpoemgrades9to12@gmail.com

Oakwoodpoemage19up@gmail.com

* If entering more than one poem please send a separate email for each.
* The contest starts on April 15, 2021.
* Entries must be received by midnight on September 1, 2021 to be considered.

Selection

* Recognition will be given in these categories within each entry group: first, second, third and honorable mention.
* Preliminary judges will be MFA students in Creative Writing at NC State, with final selection by a well-established poet.
* Contestants will be notified by email on September 15.
* Winning poets will be invited to participate in a public poetry reading at So & So Books at a later date. Details to follow.

Questions?

Please contact Director Robin Simonton at 919/832-6077. Thank you! We look forward to reading your entries.