



YOUTH CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

The **Margery Carlson Prize** is awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students in grades 1-5. The **Marel Brown Prize** is a two-tier contest with prizes awarded annually by the Georgia Poetry Society for poetic achievement by students grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

Eligibility

Any student in grades 1-12 enrolled in a Georgia public or private school or home-schooled at a permanent Georgia address. Students served by learning centers must still submit through the school in which they are enrolled.

Poem must be student's original and unpublished work. Teachers should ensure that works are not plagiarized.

Fees

There are no entry fees for this contest.

Length of Poem

Maximum of 40 lines.

Subject and Form

Any subject in good taste, any poetic form.

Prizes (1st/2nd/3rd)

\$30/ \$20/ \$10 (Margery Carlson, grades 1-5)

\$50/ \$40/ \$30 (Marel Brown, grades 6-8)

\$70/ \$60/ \$50 (Marel Brown, grades 9-12)

Prize-winners also receive a copy of the issue of *The Reach of Song* anthology that includes winning youth poems.

Restrictions

Maximum of five entries per school.

Only one entry per student.

Poems must be accompanied by entry form. (A printable copy of the form is available at: <http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org>).

How to Enter Poems for Youth Poetry

Please adhere to these format considerations:

Type or word-process on standard 8.5x11 white paper. Grades 1-5 may submit hand-written entries. Please ensure legibility.

Do not include illustrations.

Select a standard font such as Times-Roman rather than some unconventional font (such as script fonts or Gothic). Use fonts no larger than 14-point.

One poem per page. Poems must be in English.

Submit **three** copies of the poem, **one without author identification**. The copy with identification should be taped, pasted or stapled to the entry form. Keep a copy of the poem submitted as they cannot be returned.

Send all manuscripts from the same school in one envelope with school name and grade level on the envelope exterior. No entries accepted from individual students unless home-schooled. Winners will be posted on the Society website at the completion of competition.

Entry form must accompany each poem and must be complete. Form must be signed both by the student submitter and the sponsoring teacher.

No emailed or disk entries accepted. Entries should be mailed to:

Elizabeth Howells, GPS Youth Contest Chair
1090 Holly Point Way
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Deadline

All entries must be postmarked **no later than January 31** or next business day if January 31 falls on a holiday or Sunday.

Judges

The Georgia Poetry Society will select qualified judges who receive the copies without author identification for judging.

Winners are announced at the April meeting of the Society. Winners are invited, but are not required, to appear with parents and/or teachers to receive their awards. The Georgia Poetry Society reserves the right to publish prize-winning poems in its annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*. Until published, rights rest with the Society. After publication, or a decision not to publish, rights revert to the author