

**Illinois State Poetry Society
Manningham Trust Contest
c/o Mary Beth Bretzlauf
426 Park Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035**

September 25, 2021

Dear Principal, Vice Principal, Administrator or Teacher,

On behalf of the Illinois State Poetry Society, I invite your students to participate in the Manningham Trust Competition.

The Manningham Trust Competition is a poetry contest for public, private and home-schooled students in grades 6 -12.

This year, we are excited to kick off the competition again because we have several poets from across the state reach national ranking with the National Federation of State Poetry Society! To illustrate where the state and national finalists came from, We have attached a poster to help build excitement, curiosity and that competitive spirit within your school's teachers and students.

Poetry as a form of expression enables the poet and the reader to connect, to tell a story or paint a picture on a single page. Introducing students to this form can open their eyes to the budding creativity within.

We count on you to forward the attached Information Sheet and template to the appropriate teachers in your school. We hope to arouse interest and wide participation in the contest. It is gratifying to read the many poems submitted.

State finalists will have the chance to read their poems at our annual ceremony in the spring. **The contest deadline is January 31, 2022. Entries can be mailed to the address above.** Cash prizes will be awarded to those students whose poems are national finalists. I have enclosed the Rules and Guidelines as well as a template for students to follow.

Inquiries can be sent to isps.manningham@gmail.com.

I look forward to reading the works of our future poets!

Respectfully,

Mary Beth Bretzlauf
Illinois State Poetry Society
Manningham Trust Competition Chair

National Federation of State Poetry Societies

Manningham Trust Competition Rules and Guidelines

1) There are two divisions: Grades 6-8 (Junior Division) and Grades 9-12 (Senior Division). Each state may submit ten (10) poems in each division. Poems may have been printed and/or won previous awards. Contests at state level may have occurred anytime in 2019.

2) The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6-12. Public, private and home schools are eligible for entry by individual NFSPS member states. Illinois State Poetry Society is one of those states.

3) Submit two copies of each poem. Put the division (Junior or Senior) in the upper left corner of both copies. One copy must have the student's ID in the upper right corner. The ID information is student name, school name and address, student grade level and the student's Language Arts/English teacher's name. **The second copy must not have ID information. Do not send a copy with any other marking – there should be no indication of prior award granted by the state.**

4) Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated and have no more than 35 lines including space lines with no line having more than 60 characters including spaces and punctuation. Every poem entered should appear on a single sheet. Do not staple the two copies together.

5) There should be no large or unusual fonts or illustrations. Times New Roman is the suggested font. No font larger than 12 points should be used. Winning poems are scanned for the award anthology and large and/or unusual fonts impede the process. Large fonts also make it impossible to confine the poem to one page, which is required.

6) Each entrant must make a declaration of originality. The statement should appear on the bottom of the **ID copy only**. The example below is acceptable:

I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poems in print or posted on the Internet.

Signed: _____

7) Separate poems into respective divisions. Within each division separate the ID copy from the anonymous copy meant for state judges.

8) Entries must be received by January 31, 2022.

Send entries to: Mary Beth Bretzlauf

426 Park Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035