



Rules for The 2016 7GP Contest

KEY DATES

- Registration is only required if your school plans to submit a winning poem by January 29, 2016.
- Each school's 7GP Contest ends on January 19, 2016.
- Each school's one winning poem, signed student release form, student photo and educator pre-event survey should be sent to 7GP by January 29, 2016.
- The winning poem's final printed draft and the video of the student reading the final draft of the poem should be sent by Feb. 29, 2016.
- Schools are notified whether April or May filmed events will be scheduled in their area by March 15, 2016.
- Prizes and books are sent to schools by the week of May 1, 2016.

KEY RULES

- One person from each participating school will register at www.7gp.org as the school contact. The registering school contact may be a teacher of any subject, a homeroom teacher, or any administrator.
- The school contact will ensure that all 7th grade students throughout the school, regardless of ability, are invited to participate in *The 7GP Contest*.
- The 7GP Contest begins and ends at each school. No additional competition occurs once a winner is selected.
- A school only needs one 7th grader to write and submit one poem for their 7GP Contest to be valid.
- Students' poems submitted for the Contest must be written during the 2015-2016 school year and at a time when the student is considered a 7th grader before the 7GP Contest deadline.
- Registered schools decide whether the Contest is mandatory or voluntary for 7th grader participation.
- Students must be permitted to write the poem of their choice (1) on any theme, (2) using any poetry form and any poetry devices, and (3) in any length. Please review Contest Best Practices.
- Poems must be written primarily in English.
- Students should know they are writing poems that they may enter in The 7GP Contest.
- Each school selects its own one winning 7GP Contest poem based solely on the written words, not on student personality or poem performance.
- Once a school makes its selection, the educator may work with the winner to fine-tune the poem for publication and final draft submission. 7GP may also make suggestions for the student to help his or her poem achieve its highest quality. All final edits must be made by the student. The poem's final draft must be received no later than January 29, 2016. The educator should review the final poem with the student.
- Submitted poems must have a title, be typewritten and formatted 8 ½" wide and 11" long. Please refrain from one-word titles. See Contest Best Practices.
- Winning students must submit a video of their reading in order to be invited to attend events and have their names and poems listed in event programs.
- An online link that will provide guidance for submitting the winning poem and all other required materials will be available by December 1, 2015.