Theater And Poetry Project

A Language Arts Enrichment Program

2025-26 Paterson Student Poetry Contest

Topics:
Below are some suggestions. This is your poem so you are free to choose to write about something meaningful to you. We encourage you to include lots of details.

From our poetry ambassador Melida:
- I remember

From our poetry ambassador Rashad:
- Walk us through a moment when you experienced joy

From our poetry ambassador Felicia:
- The world is made of so many different people and I like that because…

Additional Topics
- The best things in life are words because….
- Where I Am From
- A kitchen memory
- A poem of thanks
- Sometimes I wonder
- An important person in my life
- A holiday memory
- What I miss
- My favorite place
- What I love about my family
- My room
- Everyday after school
- When I look at the sky at night

Passaic County Community College
One College Blvd., Paterson, NJ 07505-1179
tapp-pccc.com

Style & Format
Please note - No Electronic Submissions!
PLEASE NO STAPLES!

All poems (two copies of each poem) should be submitted in 12 point font. Please no fancy fonts.

In the upper left land corner, type the following:

Student name
Home address
Phone # and email (or guardian's phone or email)
Grade, school and teacher's name.

Please include all of the information or else the entry cannot be accepted. Students may submit a maximum of two poems each!

Submissions & Parental Permissions:

To submit, teachers/librarians should follow the steps below:

1. Hand out the permission slip included in this flyer and have parents sign and return. **Poems cannot be published without parental permission.**
2. Compile all student poems (two copies of each poem) in a packet and mail to:

The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College
One College Boulevard
Paterson, NJ. 07505–1179

OR deliver to:

The Poetry Center at The Hamilton Club
32 Church Street, Paterson, NJ

Teachers – please try to submit your students' poems in one packet!
Submissions should be entered by February 20, 2026.

Awards:

1st Prize – $100.
2nd Prize– $ 50.

The prizes will be distributed at the Awards Ceremony at PCCC on Tuesday, June 2nd.

Sample Poem

Student Name
Home address
Email
Phone #
Grade, School
Teacher's name

Who Am I?
By Savannah Gonzalez

I am Savannah.
I am a writer,
Chocolate lover, editor.
Quiet as a cave in midnight,
Playful as a dog,
Word farmer,
Sentence builder,
Word swimmer,
I am a poet.

Sample Poem

Student Name
Home address
Email
Phone #
Grade, School
Teacher's name

Egypt is Me
By Rahma El Agamy

Who am I here?What is this place?
Where am I? Not the place I call home.
My home appears in me,
Egypt is me.
My skin in the beautiful sand,
The desert that hides so much to be discovered.
Egypt is me,
Mysterious and full of history.
A bit like me,
Egypt is me.
My eyes are the beautiful brown fertile soil.
The green plants thriving in this soil,
Creating a mystifying color mix.
Egypt is me,
Standing tall like the date trees –
growing, providing luscious mouthwatering
And delectable treats for many.
Egypt is me,
The beautiful, shining, crystal blue Nile
Running through my blood.
Egypt is me,
A place full of memories,
Protected by nature,
Full of people who love it
And call it home.
Home to millions and an ancient
Civilization where great kings stood.
A place I wish to be,
Egypt is me.

Sample Poem

Student Name
Home address
Email
Phone #
Grade, School
Teacher's name

I Miss
By Lisangel Nunez

I miss your beautiful beaches, your clear blue waters,
My hair flipping in the breeze, the way the sun hits my face
And light reflects upon the water.
I miss your dark green mountains, your beautiful animals,
The way the birds call my name as they sing in the morning,.
I miss the heat against my skin and laughter that brightens
My face, my family by the green trees and light blue waters,
The wind in my hair, the mesmerizing sunsets,
The palm trees that dance with the wind.
I miss it all. I miss my home.
I miss the music as it's played on the streets,
A rhythm that makes me move my hips.
The music, the dancing, this is home to me.
I miss the warm and heartfelt food,
Crusty empanadas with a soft cheese filling
And fresh melon juice that's gathered from the trees.
The smells, the way they call out to me,
Water my mouth and warm my heart.

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Parent/Guardian Permission

I permit the reproduction of this poem in print, on the internet, or in any other media. I understand that students attending the Award Ceremony may be televised and/or photographed, and that these recordings and photographs may be broadcast or reproduced without additional permission from me, the undersigned.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student's Teacher Name & School _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian Phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____
(*We may reach out to inform parents of winners, or to share news about the awards ceremony.*)

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tapp-pccc.com 973-684-6555 lisacoll2@gmail.com