

Annual Poetry Contest

Youth Poetry Café

Tue May 5 | 6:30-7:30pm | Main Library

Students in grades 2-12 are invited to read their original work and receive awards.

Poetry Contest Open Mic Night

Wed May 6 | 6:00-7:00pm | Main Library

All adult participants are invited to read their work.
Please register at StarkLibrary.org

Contest Rules

- Poems entered must be author's original work and may not be copied from any book or other source or generated with AI software. We reserve the right to disqualify plagiarized poems at any time.
- Students in grades 2-12 may submit one original poem. Adults may submit up to three original poems. Each entry submission must have its own entry form.
- Please double check spelling and punctuation before submitting your work. All poems must be no longer than 250 words and printed neatly or typed. Illegible poems and/or entry forms will be disqualified.
- Entries must be submitted by April 11, 2026. Poems may be entered in the contest in the following ways:
 - **Online:** Submit your poem online by visiting StarkLibrary.org/Poetry
 - **Mail:** Stark Library - Attn: Youth Services/Poetry Contest - 811 Cleveland Ave NW, Canton OH 44702
 - **In person:** Visit any of our library locations or bookmobiles to drop off your poem & entry form.
- Submissions will not be returned. Authors retain all copyrights to their work. Winning poems may be posted on the Stark Library website.
- Multiple top honors will be given in each of the following categories:
(a) Grades 2-3 (b) Grades 4-5 (c) Grades 6-7 (d) Grades 8-9 (e) Grades 10-12 (f) Adult
- If you are under the age of 18, be sure your parent(s) or guardian is aware of your entering this contest and is in agreement with all of these rules. Failure to comply with any contest rules will result in disqualification.
- Staple the completed entry form below to your poem before submitting it to the contest.

Stark Library | Annual Poetry Contest Entry Form

First and Last Name: _____ Phone# or Email: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____ Teacher (optional): _____

Library Branch: _____ Title of Poem: _____

Category for Judging (*circle one*): Grade 2-3 | Grade 4-5 | Grade 6-7 | Grade 8-9 | Grade 10-12 | Adult

Signature: _____

Your signature states that you have read and agree with the contest rules. You are also stating that this poem is original and is not copied from a book or other source.