



May 2020 Open Contest Guidelines

- Deadline:** May 16, 2020
- Sponsor:** Marcel Duclos
- Theme:** *A Chance Meeting*
- Form:** Unrhymed verse in any meter
- Style:** Conversation Poem
- Line Limit:** 30 (*Note line limit 30 lines*)

MUSTS:

1. A Conversation Poem must be “intimate, informal, and serious.” It “addresses a particular person.” “It simulates a speaking voice. It does not record a conversation... because it is animated by only one speaker.”
2. A Conversation Poem must address a specific living friend who is not a lover.
“Readers are positioned to overhear one side of a conversation that is meant to be overheard.”
Quotes from Hirsch, E.D., *The Essential Poet’s Glossary*. Mariner: NY, 2017, p. 59-60.

SHOULD: none

EXAMPLES:

Lewis Carroll, *Rules and Regulations* (this rhymes, which is not usual for conversation poems)

Shel Silverstein, *Forgotten Language*

Maya Angelou, *Million Man March Poem*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Nightingale: a Conversation Poem*