



April 2020 Open Contest Guidelines Modern Ballad

Deadline: April 18, 2020

Sponsor: Cheryl Wilkie

Theme: Optional

Form: Modern Ballad

Line Limit: 40

MUSTS:

1. The ballad must be a narrative poem (one that tells a story).
2. The ballad must be divided into stanzas, either traditional 4-line stanzas, or a stanza length of the poet's choice.
3. The ballad must rhyme, but the rhyme pattern is poet's choice
4. The ballad must differ from traditional ballads by introducing something modern (in setting, characters, plot, style, theme, technology, etc.).

POSSIBILITIES:

1. The ballad's rhythm pattern might be traditional (iambic tetrameter/trimeter), a different rhythm, or free verse (no set rhythm). Poet's choice.
2. The ballad might or might not have a refrain (a repeated stanza). Poet's choice.

EXAMPLES: Some of these examples were written as poetry, some of them as songs.

Ellis Parker Butler, *The Ballad of the Bachelor*

Boston, *More than a Feeling*

Chicago, *Hard to Say I'm Sorry*

Eric Clapton, *Tears in Heaven.*

Elton John, *Candle in the Wind*

Edwin Arlington Robinson, *Richard Cory*

Ruth Rubin, *Ballad of the Triangle Fire*

Barry Sadler, *Ballad of the Green Berets*

John Mackey Shaw, *The Broken-legged Man*