

October 2019 Open Contest Guidelines A Poem in Response to _____

- **Deadline:** October 19, 2019
- **Sponsor:** Curtis Pierce
- Theme: Optional
- Form: Optional
- Line Limit: 40

MUSTS:

- 1. Poets, respond! Write a poem in answer/reply to something.
- 2. You must write a poem in answer/reply to a: newspaper article, current or historical event, film, book, poem, editorial, photograph, advertisement, letter, or simply anything that inspires you.

SHOULDS:

- 1. Poets should step outside the box. Take risks. Make unusual comparisons. See beauty—or pain—in unusual places. Describe ordinary objects with unusual details.
- 2. Your reaction, response, answer, or reply should be from a different perspective—that is, different from the perspective that prompted your poem.

POSSIBILITIES:

You are encouraged to identify directly with what you are responding, answering, or replying to. Your subject may be evident via the poem—or not. Author's choice.

A FEW EXAMPLES:

https://www.rattle.com/how-to-talk-about-guns-in-america-by-elizabeth-coyle/

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47735/in-response-to-a-rumor-that-the-oldest-whorehouse-inwheeling-west-virginia-has-been-condemned

https://www.rattle.com/dear-senator-by-cambra-koczkur/

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/147108/jordan