

JW Riley Poetry Contest

The Riley Festival is pleased to promote the art of poetry in honor of James Whitcomb Riley, the famous "Hoosier Poet."

Contestants for the JW Riley Poetry Contest should enter in one of the following two categories:

OPEN CATEGORY

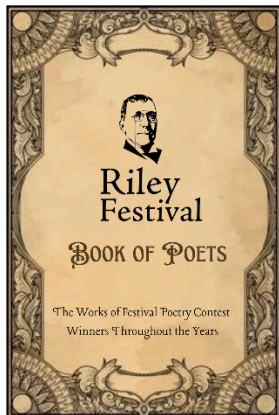
Adult Division (18 yrs and up)

- Poetry of any type will be accepted
- 500 word maximum
- \$50 award to winner
- No more than one entry per person

THEME CATEGORY

Adult Division (18 yrs and up)

- Poetry must be written to incorporate the 2025 Festival Theme: "The Yellowbird"
- 500 word maximum
- \$50 award to winner
- No more than one entry per person



BOOK OF POETS WINNER

The winning poem from each category will be published in the Riley Festival Book of Poets. The Book of Poets will be posted on the festival website (www.RileyFestival.com) and will feature the year's winning festival poem.

How to Enter / Contest Rules / Additional Info:

- Open a new email and type your NAME, full ADDRESS, and contact PHONE number.
- Place your poem, 500 words maximum, in the body of the email (not as an attachment).
- In the Subject Line, list the category and division (for example: OPEN CATEGORY).
- Send your email to JWRileyPoetryContest@gmail.com.
- Entries must be received by midnight Monday, September 22, 2025.
- No more than one entry permitted per person in the Open Category and one entry per person in the Theme Category. (An individual may enter both categories, but no more than two poems total may be submitted by an individual.) Send each entry in a separate email.
- Winners will be notified by phone and by email and are encouraged to attend the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, October 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the festival entertainment tent where they will receive their ribbons and checks. If you are unable to attend, you may pick up your awards at the festival office.
- Poems may be on display for festival goers to enjoy throughout the festival.
- By entering the contest, contestants consent to their poem being "published" on the festival website.
- If you have questions, contact Katie at (317) 501-0400 or kscott@gcsc.k12.in.us