

2013 TEEN POETRY SLAM

ABOUT

A Poetry SLAM is a **performance poetry** contest. It is an opportunity for people to share their original poetry with a wider audience.

Poetry SLAMS are all about expression. Poems can be from a diverse range of styles including love poetry, poetry on social commentary, comic routines, and personal confessional pieces. Because our SLAM is a teen event, topics and language must be appropriate for all ages; other than that limitation, any type of poem is welcome.

RULES

- Performers must be in either Middle School or High School
- There is a limit to 1 poem per person per round with a time limit of 3 minutes. The timer begins as soon as the contestant begins to speak. There are 3 rounds total
- The poetry SLAM is a solo event. There will be no accompaniment of any kind. The poem must be the poet's own work. No exceptions.
- The judges are looking at two components - the poem itself and your delivery. Regarding the poem, they will look at: content (keeping attention of the audience), length (staying within 3 minutes), good word usage, keeping your material organized, eliciting an audience response (laughing, clapping, etc.). Regarding your performance, they will be looking at whether you make eye contact, project your voice, smile and relate to the audience, have an enthusiastic delivery, and they will judge the overall execution.
- There will be no vulgarity, racial slurs, or obscenity allowed. Everyone must conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to other performers and to the library
- All contestants must be present to receive a prize. No exceptions. No stand-ins allowed.
- All contestants will wear a name tag throughout the competition. This helps the judges, host, and volunteers, to know who the contestants are. No prizes will be awarded if we cannot identify you.

TIPS

- It is a good idea to practice performing the poem, and make sure it sounds interesting when spoken. At a SLAM, the performance is as important as the poem.
- Practice in front of an audience. Time your piece to 3 minutes. Be sure to project your voice.
- A mike can be very useful. Smile, relax and have fun.
- Give your piece a name. Try to memorize your piece if possible, but no matter what, don't just read.
- Take the competition seriously. Try to win a prize. There will be prizes in two age categories if we have enough entries. First prize is \$75. Second is \$50, Third is \$25, plus some honorable mentions.

Register online at www.rowanpubliclibrary.org

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