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Free Poetry Contests

By Gary R. Hess

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Free Poetry contests are a very common happening as of late. They are popping up all over the web, most with slogans like "Win \$20,000" or "You can be the next winner."

Now don't get it wrong... some of these are quite great and can be useful to someone who just wants to have their name in a book, but the idea and how they go about this is a complete scheme.

The ways the winners are chosen have nothing to do with the "best poem." It is a complete scam.

Sites like Poetry.com offer daily prizes as well, however they aren't chosen truthfully. Well, to an extent. What they do, is select a certain number of poems randomly and then read them, and select the best poem out of those. They probably don't even do that... but you get the point. They do not read ALL the poems. They read a very select few. As far as we know, they select a random poem as the winner and read it themselves and see if it totally doesn't suck... and if it does they select another random one as the winner.

If you do not believe this article, try it out yourself.

Create a poem which totally sucks. Something like:

Poetry.com is full of them
They offer money and choose a winner
But the winner is not them
It is poetry.com

They never read the poems
And never select a real winner
This is all just a scam
And this poem is bad

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So try this out yourself
And see who gets selected
To go to Washington
And get into their book

You will then see that they are a scam. They will soon send you a letter in the mail stating that your poem was great and that you were selected to receive a prize and want you to go to a convention in Washington.

They are not alone however. Most other "free" poetry contests are just the same. Poetry for America does the exact same thing as well as Amateur Poets of America. All are scams and should be avoided.

The best way to avoid these schemes is by looking at fine print and also only submitting to places which charges to read your poem. These are generally more legit. If you think about it, where are these contests getting the money from? Legit contests get money from the people who submit the poems while the scams receive money for telling all the authors that their work is great and they want them to pay \$2 to have their poem in the book and tell them that the book is on sale for a "low" price just for them!

So please, avoid the scams and do what's right. Tell others and spread the word. Do not let others be deceived by their money making schemes.

Gary is the webmaster and a writer for

Inspiring the Poet in You!

By Anusuya Veth

Poems. Just the mention of them makes me smile. Why? Simple. I delight in writing and reading poetry.

Some tend to think that to be a poet is not easy and that it must be those deep thinkers who can write poems.

Actually all of us can be poets if we have creativity. After all poems are creations of our minds and our experiences.

If you are still clueless and you think that you can never write a single poem, below are some inspiring tips to awake the poet in you:

1. Read

Read other poets work and observe how they write. You don't have to read heavy stuff as there are also writers who write simple and easy-to-understand poems. Start with simple ones to get into the flow

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of poetry.

2. Poetry Class

Is there any poetry writing classes in your university or any other institutions? It will be a good idea to join the class and learn about the basics of writing poetry as most beginners start this way.

3. Talk with Poets

Is there anybody whom you know is a poet? Speak to them and ask them how did they start writing poems. They will be glad to share with you their experiences. By doing this you will be getting valuable information from an expert and you can learn from their experiences.

4. Write

If you don't try you will never know so the next best thing to do is to pen a poem yourself. It could be long or short but start working on the poems. You could also keep a journal for your poems.

5. Contests

There are many poetry contests both in magazines & in portals. Take part and submit your poems. Once again this step is to encourage and motivate yourself to write poems.

6. Get Feedback

After writing the poems get a friend or better still a poet to give you feedback on your work. Ask them if they like it and if they don't ask them why. By doing this you will be able to know how well your poems are able to communicate with others.

Like I said writing poems is a form of communication. It all depends on the writer and his or her emotions and thoughts. But one key thing which pushes all us poets is the passion for writing them. So get creative and start penning those hidden poems!

Anusuya Veth is a creative writer and poet. She got nominated to 'The International Who's Who in Poetry' (May 2004). Her poems have been published in

. You can also download her free

special poetry collection ebook at

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