



The Africana Homestead 2005 Poetry Contest

The Africana Homestead 2005 Poetry Contest is sponsored by Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (AHLP). In 2004 we established this contest to support emerging, amateur poets in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware and to honor the legacy of African Americans and recent black immigrants who live in those states. The contest is now open to residents of all 50 States and the territories of the United States of America.

In each category we will award contest winners a cash prize and trophy, and a certificate for honorable mention. We will publish the entries of the winners and those who earn honorable mention in our annual monograph, *Visions of Black Life: A Collection of Outstanding Poetry and Short Stories, Volume II May 2006*. AHLP will also invite first, second, and third place winners to read their work at an awards ceremony in May 2006. AHLP and contest entry fees will fund the prizes. Each winner may earn only one major prize. If a winner has more than one submission, they may earn honorable mentions for their other works. AHLP solely funds the publication and will give the winners three royalty-free copies.

2005 Contest Rules

Categories:

CHILDREN (ages 5 to 11 on August 31, 2005)
YOUTH (ages 12 to 18 on August 31, 2005)
ADULT (age 18 and older on August 31, 2005)

Prizes:

CHILDREN First: \$75; Second: \$50; Third: \$25.
YOUTH First: \$150; Second: \$100; Third: \$75.
ADULT First \$300; Second: \$200; Third: \$100.

Open to: Residents of the 50 States and all territories of the United States of America.

Entry Guidelines:

1. Poems may be short or long, any type, or style. The subject must be any aspect of the historic or present-day black experience in the United States or its territories. Entries must be the author's original work that is unpublished and not submitted elsewhere for publication or broadcast, not accepted elsewhere for publication or broadcast, and not entered simultaneously in any other competition. This includes previous versions of the poem. Joint authorship is acceptable.
2. Length of each short poem entry must not exceed 30 written lines. This may be one poem, or a collection of short poems whose cumulative total is 30 or fewer lines. Length of each long poem entry must not exceed 180 lines. You may submit as many entries as you wish with the appropriate entry fee.
3. You must print all entries single-sided, on plain 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Please do not double space. If your entry is more than one page, please number the pages and put the title of each poem at the top of the pages.
4. Send two copies of each entry. You must also submit one cover sheet with the author's name, address, phone number, and e-mail, and title of each poem in your submission. We will ask the winners to submit an electronic file of their work(s), a biographical profile, and photograph, and to sign a publication contract.
5. We will not accept faxed or electronic copies. We will not return your entries.
6. The entry fee is \$10 per submission for adults and \$5 per entry for children and youth. You may pay by check or money order, in United States, payable to Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers.
7. AHLP will announce the winners in the first week of December 2005. We may also post the names of the winners and titles of the winning entries on the AHLP website, <www.ahlpub.com>. AHLP will notify winners of the contest results by mail.

Criteria: All judging is blind and the decision of the judges is final. They will judge entries on originality and the sense of the craft of poetry shown in the work. Judges will be literary professionals from academia and the publishing industry.

Deadline: Your entry must be postmarked no later than **August 31, 2005**.

Send to: Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers, PO Box 2957, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 08034-0265.

****Important:*** We will not consider entries that do not meet all terms and conditions of the contest. Please read and follow the rules carefully. Please specify your age-group category. The decisions of the judges on acceptability of submissions will be final. Please e-mail <editors@ahlpub.com> or call 609-531-4182 for additional information.