2018 Poetry Challenge

Who may participate: Amateurs, semi-professionals, professionals and students of all ages are invited to submit original poetry in response to the 2018 Poetry Challenge. This year Highland Park Poetry challenges poets to write a response to one of the following prompts:

- **Electricity** (in honor of the 75th anniversary of Nikolas Tesla’s death)
- **Monsters** (in honor of the 200th anniversary of publication of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s *Frankenstein*)
- **A Golden Shovel Poem** (see attached description of this poetic form created by Terrence Hayes)

What are the guidelines?
- Should express the writer’s experiences, thoughts or feelings related to the challenge themes or form.
- Previously published works are accepted but please indicate where and when the work appeared.
- Original poetry of 30 lines or fewer.

What is the timeline for this project?

*Deadline for submissions: Monday, January 29, 2018*

*Selected authors will be notified on or before February 26, 2018*

There is no reading fee to submit one (1) poem. To submit additional poems, there is a reading fee of $4 per poem. Check or money order payable to Highland Park Poetry.

How will works be collected?

- **Via Electronic Submission:** Send pieces(s) as text in the body of an e-mail or as a .doc or .pdf attachment to: Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org. Please put “2018 Poetry Challenge” in the subject line of your e-mail.

- **Submissions by U.S. Mail:** Send poem(s), completed/signed Entry/Release form and any reading fees (if applicable) to: Highland Park Poetry c/o Jennifer Dotson, 376 Park Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

How will poems be selected?

Poetry submissions will be selected by a guest judge. Selected adult poets will be invited to read their poems at a venue and date still to be determined. Selected student poets will be invited to read their poems at the Highland Park Public Library Auditorium (494 Laurel Avenue) on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. Selected poetry will also be featured on the Muses’ Gallery on the Highland Park Poetry website throughout April 2018.

What are the categories?

Depending on submissions received, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place poems will be awarded in the following categories:

- Student, K – 5
- Student, 6 – 8
- Student, 9 – 12
- Student, College/University
- Adult Highland Park Resident
- Adult non-resident

Request for Art Work.

Photographers and visual artists are encouraged to submit works related to the 2018 Challenge to be included in our display on [www.highlandparkpoetry.org](http://www.highlandparkpoetry.org). Artist/photographer will be credited.
2018 Poetry Challenge Entry Form

Poet’s Name ____________________________________________________________

Email Address ___________________________________ Phone ___________________

Mailing Address ________________________________________________________

Category:  Student, K-5___  Student, 6-8___  Student, 9-12___  Student, 12+___  

Adult, Non-HP Resident _____  Adult, HP Resident _____

There is no reading fee to submit one (1) poem. To submit additional poems, there is a reading fee of $4 per poem. Check or money order payable to Highland Park Poetry.

How many poems are you submitting? ________________________  Fee enclosed? _________________________

Poem Title(s) __________________________________________________________

Has work been previously published?  ____ Yes    _____  No

If Yes, please indicate where & when ____________________________________________

Submissions:
• Should express the writer’s experiences, thoughts or feelings related to Electricity (honoring 75th anniversary of Nikola Tesla’s death), or Monsters (honoring 200th anniversary of Frankenstein by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley), or should be written in the form of a Golden Shovel.
• Previously published works are accepted but please indicate where and when the work appeared.
• Original poetry of 30 lines or fewer.

Release Form: Submissions must include a copy of the following completed form indicating your acknowledgement that (1) your submission is original and is not a copy or derivative of any other work and (2) Highland Park Poetry has your irrevocable permission, without restriction, to use your work in original form or reproduction for exhibition, advertising, educational and promotional materials for this event as well as other events as Highland Park Poetry may determine in its sole and absolute discretion. Reasonable care will be taken in handling submissions but Highland Park Poetry is responsible for accidental damage or loss.

PLEASE PRINT

Poet’s Signature: __________________________________________ Date: __________________

School / Grade / Teacher Name (if applicable) ________________________________________________

For Parents of Minors: I have signed the above Release on behalf of myself and my minor child

Parent’s Name (printed) __________________________________________

Parent’s Signature __________________________________________ Date: __________________

HIGHLAND PARK  
POETRY  
A celebration of words
Golden Shovel: Poetic Form

By: Robert Lee Brewer | June 24, 2014

Here are the rules for the Golden Shovel:

- Take a line (or lines) from a poem you admire.
- Use each word in the line (or lines) as an end word in your poem.
- Keep the end words in order.
- Give credit to the poet who originally wrote the line (or lines).
- The new poem does not have to be about the same subject as the poem that offers the end words.

If you pull a line with six words, your poem would be six lines long. If you pull a stanza with 24 words, your poem would be 24 lines long. And so on.

If it’s still kind of abstract, read these two poems to see how Terrance Hayes used a Gwendolyn Brooks poem to write the first golden shovel:

- **We Real Cool**, by Gwendolyn Brooks (original poem)
- **The Golden Shovel**, by Terrance Hayes (golden shovel poem)

As you can see, the original golden shovel takes more than a line from the poem. In fact, it pulls every word from the Brooks poem, and it does it twice.

This form is sort of in the tradition of the cento and erasure, but it offers a lot more room for creativity than other found poetry.