

# POETRY PENTATHLON: NORTH SHORE 2022

Event Date is

**Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 1PM – 3PM\***  
at Highland Park's Lit Fest @ the Lot  
St. Johns & Central Avenues

**Registration deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Contact [Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org](mailto:Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org) with questions  
and to register.

The Poetry Pentathlon - an event that transcends the poetry reading and poetry slam! Think "Olympics for Poets" celebrating both the craft and the performance of the art. This was first created by Chicago's Waiting4theBus. Highland Park Poetry first offered its complementary Poetry Pentathlon: North Shore Edition between 2014 and 2016.

**This dynamic competition is a means of testing ALL a poet's skills. Something that challenges them as both a writer and a performer as well as something that proves their ability with classic poetic forms and spontaneous inspiration. Waiting 4 the Bus has developed a genius system for finding the exceptionally talented and creative. The Poetry Pentathlon stands alone as a proper means for testing the poet/performer. This is not a Poetry Slam – this is the glorious throw down known as the Poetry Pentathlon, a judged poetry reading where contestants compete in 5 events with points awarded on both writing ability and performance style. Warning: the only prizes awarded for the evening are pride and bragging rights; any trophies are gravy and should be considered as such.**

5 rounds / 3 judges / 1 champion. Poets compete in 5 rounds, culminating in the always exciting and unexpected "on-the-spot" prompt. Unlike a slam where the audience determines the winner through applause and noise, the events are scored by three judges.

***WARNING: This event is held in an outdoor, public forum. No vulgarity or adult-only content.***

***\*Time is subject to change at this time by Lit Fest organizers – please be flexible. It will be confirmed one week in advance.***

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## ***Contests for the 2022 Poetry Pentathlon: North Shore Edition***

### ***Round 1 – Clerihew***

We begin competition off small with this "whimsical, four-line biographical poem of a type invented by Edmund Clerihew Bentley. The first line is the name of the poem's subject, usually a famous person, and the remainder puts the subject in an absurd light or reveals something unknown or spurious about the subject. The rhyme scheme is AABB, and the rhymes are often forced. The line length and metre are irregular." [Description from Wikipedia]

### ***Round 2 –***

#### ***The How-To Poem***

An instructional poem that explains how to do something from the ordinary to the fantastical.

### ***Round 3 –***

#### ***Poetry Pot-Luck***

This round more closely examines the poet's performance ability. Each Poet brings a poem written by them that does not to exceed 30 lines in an envelope with their name printed on the front. Poems are distributed just prior to competition.

### ***Round 4 –***

#### ***The Villanelle***

A poem composed of nineteen lines with five tercets and one quatrain. Rhyme scheme is ABA for tercets and ABAA for quatrain. The first and third lines of the first tercet function as repeating refrains, which alternate as the final line of each subsequent tercet and appear again as the two final lines of the concluding quatrain. *Poets will provide their villanelle one-week in advance of competition for judges to review technical mastery of the form.*

### ***Round 5 –***

#### ***The On-the-Spot Prompt***

Together, participating poets receive an on-the-spot prompt five minutes prior to start of the competition.

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