

# Historic Oakwood Cemetery Poetry Contest 2021

For more than 152 years, Oakwood Cemetery has been a place where the community has come to reflect on life and death, enjoy nature, and remember.

In that spirit of reflection and remembrance, Oakwood Cemetery, in collaboration with So & So Books, is hosting a poetry contest for students in grades 3 through 12 and adults ages 19 and up, inspired by an experience with Oakwood Cemetery. Though pertinent themes are endless, here are suggested themes to inspire your creativity: life and death, wildlife and nature, art, grief, and memory.

## Submission guidelines

- The contest is open to North Carolinians from grades 3 through 12 and ages 19 and up.
- Writers with a published volume of poetry are not eligible to apply.
- Contestants may submit up to 3 poems of any style or form. Each submission cannot exceed 3 pages.
- Entries may not have been previously published in print or online, including personal blogs or websites.
- All entries must be typed and titled.
- Do not type poems in all capital letters.
- Do not include your name on the page with your poem. Instead, include your name, address, phone number and email address on a separate, cover sheet. If under age 18, please include the name and contact information for a parent.
- Please email entries to the appropriate address for your grade/age:

[Oakwoodpoemgrades3to5@gmail.com](mailto:Oakwoodpoemgrades3to5@gmail.com)

[Oakwoodpoemgrades6to8@gmail.com](mailto:Oakwoodpoemgrades6to8@gmail.com)

[Oakwoodpoemgrades9to12@gmail.com](mailto:Oakwoodpoemgrades9to12@gmail.com)

[Oakwoodpoemage19up@gmail.com](mailto:Oakwoodpoemage19up@gmail.com)

- If entering more than one poem please send a separate email for each.
- The contest starts on April 15, 2021.
- Entries must be received by midnight on June 15, 2021 to be considered.

## Selection

- Recognition will be given in these categories within each entry group: first, second, third and honorable mention.
- Preliminary judges will be MFA students in Creative Writing at NC State, with final selection by a well-established poet.
- Contestants will be notified by email on July 15.
- Winning poets will be invited to participate in a public poetry reading at So & So Books at a later date. Details to follow.

## Questions?

Please contact Director Robin Simonton at 919/832-6077. Thank you! We look forward to reading your entries.