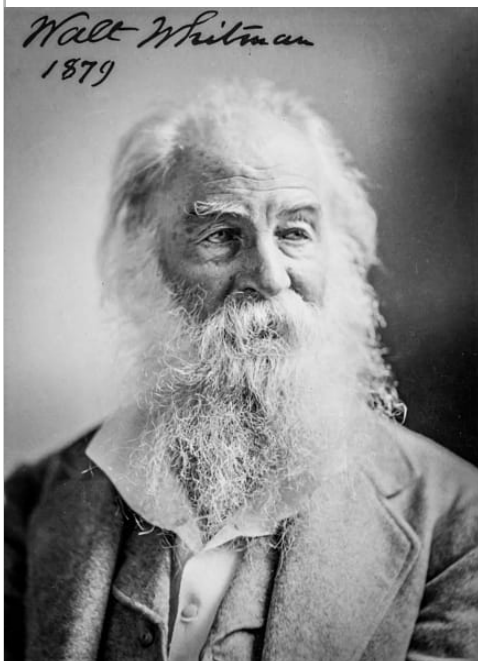


ANNUAL HIGH-SCHOOL POETRY CONTEST

OF THE WALT WHITMAN ASSOCIATION



2021 THEME: TRANSFORMATION

Walt Whitman was interested in the concept of becoming—acknowledging that all things participate in a process of growth and **transformation**. He devoted himself to the evolving transformations of his masterwork *Leaves of Grass*, publishing numerous editions before his death. And Whitman continued to alter his own persona throughout his lifetime—in reaction to civil unrest, loss, illness, loneliness, praise, criticism, and periods of self-questioning.

In this past year, we all have been pushed to accommodate changes to how we live our lives, relate to others—even how we die. We are asking students in 2021 to submit polished poems that speak to their own ideas of **transformation**. Any style of poetry is welcome—in form or free verse. We only request that it strive to interpret this theme with thoughtful originality.

AWARDS

Prize-winning poems will be published in the Walt Whitman Association newsletter, *Conversations*, and winners will be invited to read their poems at the Walt Whitman birthday celebration on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021**. Location TBA. Prizes include The Bernadette Stridick Award for first place (\$150), second place (\$100), third place (\$50), and 3 honorable mentions (\$25 each).

CONTEST DEADLINE

Submissions must be sent electronically to
wwwpoetrycontest@gmail.com
**by 11:59 p.m.
on April 30**

Suggested Whitman poems for inspiration:

[“Crossing Brooklyn Ferry”](#)

[“This Compost!”](#)

[“Song of Myself”](#)

[“Out of the Cradle, Endlessly Rocking”](#)

[“To You”](#)

[“To One Shortly to Die”](#)

[“To Think of Time”](#)

[“As Consequent, Etc.”](#)

Submission Guidelines

1. Poems will be accepted from students in grades 9-12, living in Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, and Philadelphia counties.
2. Poems must be word processed and may not exceed 2 pages.
3. To ensure fairness in the judging process, no identifying information about the author or school may appear on the pages of the poems themselves.
4. Poems must be accompanied by a separate cover page that contains the title of the poem as well as the full name, grade, school, & email address of the student author as well as the name and email address for the student’s English teacher.
5. The cover page and poem should be submitted as one document. Email attachments must be in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or in a PDF. Please email all submissions to wwwpoetrycontest@gmail.com.
6. Teachers submitting their classes’ work should send their students’ poems together in a single document. Please make a numbered table of contents as the first page of your group’s submission that lists the poem titles, poets’ names, grade levels, and email addresses that corresponds with the order in which they appear in the document. Please also be sure to include the teacher’s name, school, and email address at the top of the document.

PLEASE CIRCULATE AND POST!