**POETRY JUDGING RUBRIC**

**Entry #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Judge #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Criteria** | **Excellent**  4 points | **Good**  3 points | **Fair**  2 points | **Poor**  1 point | **Judge‘s Score** |
| **Use of Original**  **Diction &**  **Voice** | The poem’s word choice surprises and delights; conveys a sense of the speaker’s voice. Diction is consistently unique and conveys strong sense of the poem’s tone. | Uses interesting diction to convey the poem’s meaning, creates a sense of the speaker’s voice, and does not use cliché language. | Uses words in a predictable way or is less interesting in terms of its word choices. The speaker’s voice is inconsistent. | Uses several clichés, and other common tropes.  The speaker’s voice isn’t clear.  Lacks a freshness. |  |
| **Form & Structure**  **(Free verse**  **&**  **Traditional forms** | The poem’s line lengths and shape serve the overall meaning of the poem.  Uses intentional enjambment to emphasize meaning or convey a feeling on the page.  Form is intentional and well-executed.  If poem is a sonnet or ghazal or another traditional form, the poet’s execution is precise, and exciting. | The form seems intentional. Line breaks are used to emphasize certain words or to turn the phrase in an interesting way.  Traditional form works for the poem and is interesting. | The poem’s form neither adds to the meaning or of the poem, nor detracts from it. | The poem’s form does nothing for the overall meaning of the poem. |  |
| **Meaning**  **Message & Feeling** | Poem’s ideas are original, exciting, fresh! Message or feeling (tone) strongly conveyed. | Ideas are clearly expressed. The feeling of the poem is evident and interesting. | Ideas and feelings are not clear. Not clear what poem is about. | Feelings and ideas are absent from the poem. |  |
| **Elements of Style:**  **Metaphor/simile**  **Imagery**  **Rhyme  Repetition** | The poem uses most of these elements of style to convey the meaning or feeling it wants to evoke. The use of repetition is effective.  Rhyme or attention to sounds adds to the poem’s overall sensibility. Images are original/unique, and strongly convey feelings & meaning. | Use of metaphor/simile works well to convey the meaning/feeling of the poem.  Repetition (if used) is somewhat effective.  Images work to convey feelings/ideas.  Rhymes or sounds in the poem aren’t as fresh, but still work to create a feeling. | Little attention paid to use of metaphor, similes or imagery. Or similes and imagery are not unique.  Use of rhyme is overdone or expected and use of repetition is not effective. | Nothing original about the imagery.  Use of metaphor/simile is cliché or expected.  Use of rhyme is unoriginal.  Use of repetition is unnecessary. |  |
| **Syntax & Spelling**  **Punctuation & Spacing** | Poet uses interesting, unexpected syntax to convey feeling.  Use of punctuation and spacing is intentional. Serves the poem. Poet creates meaning with spacing or unusual punctuation. | Poem’s syntax grammatically correct, but not as tight or as original as could be.  Punctuation used correctly, & consistently. Space is used in expected ways. | Syntax is boring,  irregular, or grammatically awkward, but not in an intentional way.  Space not used intentionally. | Syntax is poorly used, grammar is poor, and not intentionally so.  Poet pays no attention to space on the page. |  |  |  |  |

**Recommend for inclusion in Anthology?** \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No **Score (out of 20 points) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Judge’s Comments:**