



Supplemental Guide to 2018-2019 Open Contests for Contestants and Judges “Musts and Shoulds” for June 2019

UBI SUNT (Open)

Deadline: June 15, 2019

Sponsor: Cheryl Miller

Theme: *Ubi sunt*

Form: Optional

Line Limits: 40 minimum, 50 maximum

Additional Prize Money (\$90 total): First, \$40; Second, \$30; Third, \$20

POSSIBILITIES:

Ubi sunt qui ante nos fuerunt? (Where are those who were before us?) *Ubi sunt* (Where are they) poetry is not so much a longing for the good old days as a recognition of the transitory nature of life, of our mortality. What reminds you that we all pass on? Cave paintings? Gold crowns? A statue in the park? Music? Old maps? Great buildings? Named streets? Your poem should exhibit a meditation on the transience of past lives and how they may relate to our own.

MUSTS:

The subject matter is optional, but poets must bring the reader’s mind to focus on the fleeting aspect of life.

SHOULDs:

Ubi sunt submissions may be in any form. Poets, however, should be sure their chosen form works well within 40 to 50 lines.

EXAMPLES:

Francois Villon, *Ballad of the Ladies of Bygone Times*

Thomas Nashe, *Adieu, Farewell, Earth’s Bliss*

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, “Alas poor Yorick, I knew him, Horatio. A fellow of infinite jest...”

Mark Strand, *Where are the Waters of Childhood?*

Pete Seeger, Joe Hickerson, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* (lyrics)

Don McLean, *American Pie* (lyrics)

Les Miserables (the musical), “Empty Chairs at Empty Tables” (lyrics)