



SPARE MULE

Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter
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<http://www.nfspd.com/> Click Strophies online.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Faye and I are in the process of judging the 600 plus poems from the Wyoming state poetry contest. We are in the process of making "good and bad" heaps. I was surprised to find that usually agree when choosing which pile the poems end up in. The problem we will have is picking the final list from the "good" pile.

As most of you are aware, I'm a poet by accident and still learning new things about the craft. The following is an example of the learning exercises that I use to improve myself. Please note that I'm aware of mixing metaphors in the examples.

In the October 2005 issue of *By Line* magazine there is a great article, "Using Sound Symbolism" by Katryn Wilkens. She discussed using words that refer to sounds. The technical name is onomatopoeia. It's a long article so I'll not try to discuss it here but I recommend that you read it.

The other technique is taking something, usually a noun describing an object, and have it perform in a way that is impossible but readily understood by the reader. Below is a before and after example using a poem.

Before:

Wormwood

In my dreams
I always find elegant solutions
to the most knotty problems.
As I sleep, soaring lines
flow through my mind.

But upon awakening,
they all turn to wormwood.

Morning light glints
upon the flaws,
like sunlight on snow.
I have the soul of a poet,
writing skills of a blacksmith.

After:

Wormwood 2

In my dreams I write poetry.
My words *dance* to the *tune*
of a pristine mountain stream,
climb to heights where eagles soar
and *plunge* to icy depths of inky seas.

But upon awakening, my words
turn to wormwood and gall.

My carefully crafted phrases
fade into the morning mist.
I have the soul of a poet,
writing skills of a blacksmith.

Usually, comparisons are linked by the word *like*. For example, "The evening sunset is like molten lava flowing across the seam that separates the earth from the sky." Not using it (*like*) will normally improve the word picture you are trying to paint. Try instead, "Molten lava flows from the evening sun along the seam that divides night from day."

Billy Adams, President

KUDOS TO Billy Adams who has an article presumed to appear in the *Guidepost Magazine's* book called "The healing Touch" which is the 2nd book of a series of 12 books called "The Incredible Prayer" .

Springfield Winter Banquet

If you were not at the Pasta Express in Springfield, MO on the 21st of December, you missed a great time! You missed a great dinner and you missed all the winners and some wonderful poetry!

The Springfield Poets and Friends held their Winter Banquet and Contest Results on the 21st of December at the Springfield, MO, Pasta Express. We had nearly 30 people attend the dinner.

Thirty-five contestants entered the contest with 270 entries from New Hampshire to Florida to Utah. The nationwide contest drew some wonderful poetry that we read and enjoyed. Also, there were 29 entries to our Youth Poetry Contest with many excellent offerings.

The group even had a read-a-round with some great Christmas poetry.

Next year, plan to attend our winter party for some great fun, poetry and food.

Marsha Becco, Sec.



Search is on for Native American Poet Laureate

Monterey, Calif.--(1/1/10)--Entries are now being accepted in the First White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate poetry contest. The winning poem will receive a \$100 cash award. Native American ancestry is not a prerequisite; good writing in the voice of the Indian Spirit is necessary. Deadline for entries is Feb. 28, 2010.

Co-sponsors are White Buffalo Tribe honorary chiefs Barbara Callahan Quin (LittleCrow WalkingEagle), Springfield, Mo. and Yvonne Londres (Dances with Poetry), San Antonio, Tex. Contest administrator is Wanda Sue Parrott, (Prairie Flower), Monterey, Calif.

Details and rules are available on the online-host home page links "Contest—White Buffalo" and "Newsletter—The Diploemat" (Sept. and Dec. 2009) at www.amykitchenerfdn.org ---Wanda Parrot



Winter Haiku By John J. Han (OE)

snowy football field
steam comes out
of players mouth

growing out of
a deserted wheelbarrow
winter grasses

melting in the sun
drop by drop
icicles

icy rain
sipping hot tea
by the fireside

winter garden
perching on a bare branch
golden butterflies

midwinter night
sound of migrating birds
then silence

deep snow
a prayer—
may school be closed



WYOMING POETRY CONTEST

Billy and Faye Adams were recent judges of the Wyoming State Poetry Contest. There were 648 poems entered. After narrowing it down they still had over 100 on their long list. That's when they found that they had to really get picky to narrow it down to the few winners allowed. This is very often the case. Judging is sometimes harder than writing a winning poem. Congratulation to both Billy and Faye.

MSPS WINTER 2010 CONTEST:

Here are the guidelines for the MSPS Winter 2010 Contest:

Deadline: Postmarked February 15, 2010

Format: Submit two copies of each entry, category number and name in upper left-hand corner of both copies, poet's name and address in upper right-hand corner of one copy. If you are a member, put "Missouri State Poetry Society" below your address. Put "Non-Member" if you are not.

Limits: Poems may be 40 or fewer lines. They may be unpublished or previously published if the poet retains the rights to the poem. Poets may enter each category as many times as they wish. No poems will be returned.

Categories:

1. Rhymed verse or blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter) any subject, serious or humorous
2. Free verse, any subject, serious or humorous
3. Humorous verse, any subject
4. Any form, winter subject, serious or humorous
5. Members only--Poet's choice: any form, any subject, serious or humorous
6. Youth Poetry Division I: Middle School 6th-8th grades
Division II: High School 9th-12th grades
(See Special Rules Below)

Special Rules for Youth Poetry (for Category 6 only):

1. FREE. There are no fees for the Youth category.
2. Open to Missouri students only, currently in grades 6-12.
3. Limited to one poem per student.
4. Students may individually submit an entry, or they may be submitted by their teacher.
5. Any type of poetry accepted except "found poetry."
6. 37 line maximum, including lines between stanzas; lines no longer than 45 characters.
7. Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, first place winners will be published in the MSPS Anthology *Grist*.
8. Winners and HMs will automatically qualify as candidates for MO entries to the Manningham Student Poetry Award Contest, sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

Submit two copies:

1. On one, write only "category 6" and the student's grade in top right hand corner.
2. On other copy:
 - a. in top right hand corner, write category 6, student's name, address, and grade.
 - b. on top left hand corner, write English teacher's name and email address, school name and address

Send Youth entries to: Judy Young, MSPS Youth Director,
6155 E. Farm Road 132, Springfield, MO 65802

Fees for Categories 1-5:

Non-members pay \$1.00 per poem. Members pay \$1.00 for two entries. Make money order or check payable to MSPS and mail to Bill Lower, 21010 S. Hwy 245, Fair Play, MO 65649. Include an SASE or your e-mail address on an index card for a list of the winners.

Prizes:

\$25, \$15, \$10, and three honorable mentions in each category.

- Membership: See [Membership Application](#) on the menu on our webpage at www.nfspd.com/mo

HAPPY NEW YEAR

