
Alberta 55 plus Creative Writing Events

Note: Entries must adhere to guidelines and length restrictions for each Class or will be disqualified.

Class A – Poetry

Maximum 34 lines

An expression of thoughts, feelings or imagery that uses distinctive style and rhythm.

Poetry may be rhymed or free verse.

Example - Free Verse: *A Time to Talk* by Robert Frost

When a friend calls to me from the road	No, not as there is a time to talk.
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,	I thrust my hoe in the mellow
ground,	
I don't stand still and look around	Blade end up and five feet tall,
On all the hills I haven't hoed,	And plod: I go up to the stone wall
And shout from where I am, "What is it?"	For a friendly visit.

Class B – Light Verse

Maximum: Limerick 5 lines

Haiku 3 lines

Humorous verse 15 lines

A category for a limerick, **OR** haiku, **OR** "Ogden Nash" style humorous poetry.

Example – Limerick (5 lines)

Here lies a young salesman named Phipps,
Who married, on one of his trips,
A widow named Block –
Then died of the shock,
When he saw there were six little chips. *Anonymous*

Example – Haiku (a 3-line traditional Japanese verse form consisting of 17 syllables in 3 metrical units of 5, 7 and 5 syllables)

Little butterfly
floating over the flowers
spring is beginning. *Unknown*

Class C - Fiction

Maximum 2000 words

A story that is based on imagined characters and events; or on real characters placed in imaginary situations, and written in the form of a mystery, romance, tale, etc., and composed for entertainment. Strong fictional story structure includes conflict, story climax and resolution.

Note**: if the entry is written in the first person, a disclaimer must be signed on the entry form that any resemblance to actual persons or events is purely co-incidental.

Class D - Non-fiction - Serious

Maximum 2000 words

A literary composition that is written as

- a) a composition based on facts, real people and real events, or
- b) an essay that expresses the author's point of view on a particular subject and is intended to instruct, to inform, to explain, or to convince.

Class E - Non-fiction - Humorous

Maximum 2000 words

The kind of writing in which humor means "in a lighthearted manner". A serious subject can be written in a way that is clever, ironic, or satirical but should, overall, produce a "real chuckle".