Dean Elinor F. Foster Poetry/Short Prose Contest Guidelines

This contest has been jointly sponsored by the Friends of the Library of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the Kiwanis of Robeson-Lumberton, with the latter organization generously providing the funding for the prizes for the high school students.

1. The entries must be 500 words or less and must be typed. All words, excluding the title, will count toward the total. **Any entry exceeding the limit will be eliminated.** Any incomplete entry form will result in the elimination of the accompanying entry.

2. The entries must be original and unpublished.

3. One entry per person will be accepted and an entry form must accompany the entry.

4. All entries will be blind-judged, so only the title should appear on the submission. The judges’ decisions will be final. **Any copies of the poetry/prose entry with the author’s name on the piece or contained within the piece will be eliminated.** The author’s name should appear on the entry form only.

5. There are three categories:
   - UNCP students,
   - Area high school students,
   - General public, must be 18 years of age or older.

6. Cash prizes will be awarded in each category:
   - $250 for first place,
   - $150 for second place,
   - $100 for third place.

7. Each writer of an award winning entry will be invited to read the piece at a program during National Library Week. The award winning entries may be published in **Library Lines**. **Submission of an entry grants permission to publish the entry in the newsletter.**

8. **Deadline for submission of the entry with an application is February 28, 2015.** Any entries postmarked, if mailing, after this date will not be accepted.

9. **e-mailed entries must be sent as attachments.**
   - Entries e-mailed must be in Microsoft Word format.
   - Entries must be submitted before midnight on the deadline date.
   - Entry form must be submitted with entry. Electronic versions are available on the Library’s web site.
   - Entries can be e-mailed to **carl.danis@uncp.edu**

10. **Mailing Address** | **Contact information**
    --- | ---
    Mary Livermore Library
    Poetry/Short Prose Contest
    The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
    Mary Livermore Library
    P.O. Box 1510
    Pembroke, NC 28372-1510 | Carl Danis
    Mary Livermore Library
    The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
    Mary Livermore Library
    P.O. Box 1510
    Pembroke, NC 28372-1510
    carl.danis@uncp.edu
Application for Dean Elinor F. Foster Poetry/Short Prose Contest
Deadline: February 28, 2015

Name: ___________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
City: ___________________________________________
State: ___________________________________________
Zip code: ________________________________________
E-mail (optional): _________________________________
Home phone: _____________________________________

Entry category (please check one):
   UNCP student ______
   Area high school student ______
       High School Name: ___________________________
       County: ___________________________________
       High School Phone Number: _________________
   General public ______

Title of entry: _______________________________________

_________________________________________________________
Signature
Your signature grants publication rights.

_________________________________________________________
Printed name (yours)

Any Student under 18 must have the signature of parent or guardian.

_________________________________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian (if under 18)

_________________________________________________________
Printed name of Parent/Guardian (if under 18)

LIBRARY USE ONLY
Date postmarked: ________________
Number of words: __________________
Number of entry: __________________
(comprised of category A-C and number)

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Dean Elinor F. Foster Poetry/Short Prose Contest

The Poetry/Short Prose Contest is named in honor of the former Dean of the Mary Livermore Library, Dr. Elinor F. Foster. This contest attracts entries across the region in three different categories: UNCP students, regional high school students, and the general public.

The Friends of the Library are providing the prizes for the categories. First place winners will receive $250; second place, $150; and third place, $100. (In the case of a tie, the prize money may be divided.)

The deadline for submission of entries this year is Friday, February 28, 2015. The entry form is included in our January newsletter and a link is included from the Library’s website: http://www.uncp.edu/academics/library.

This year we will accept entries electronically. The forms can be downloaded at the Library’s website, filled out and attached with the contestant’s entry.

Winners will be invited to read their winning pieces on April 16, 2015, during National Library Week.

Once judged, the potentially winning entries will be checked to see if they were plagiarized, if the judges did not disqualify them first. Copying something you found in a print publication, on the Internet, or from Facebook will disqualify your winning entry. If you slightly modify an e-mail that someone sent you, the entry will be disqualified. Remember that plagiarism is theft of another’s words or ideas. At the University level, it can be an Honor Code violation.

Some Frequently Asked Questions about the Contest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You say to not put my name on the entry. If I don’t, how will you know I won?</td>
<td>The form you send in with your entry has your name and contact information on it, and we code your entry to match your form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alright, so I cannot sign my name. Can I work it into the story or poem or even make an acrostic?</td>
<td>If you include your name in any fashion, including dedicating it to your parents or other relatives, your entry will be disqualified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What happens if I used 501 words? Do you really count the words? Does the title count?</td>
<td>Yes, we really count the words; with 501 words, your entry will be disqualified. The title doesn’t count towards the 500 words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can I just write my entry neatly? What if I print it by hand?</td>
<td>Writing the entry by hand is against the rules and your entry will be disqualified. Use a computer or typewriter, please.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What if I have trouble with spelling? Will that disqualify my entry?</td>
<td>Misspelled words do not disqualify an entry, but the judges tend to react negatively to an entry with misspelled words and bad grammar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What about the form? Do I have to fill it out completely?</td>
<td>Yes, we need to know in which category to place your entry and how to contact you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The deadline for entries is February 28, 2015. What if it snows and I can’t get to the post office that day?</td>
<td>If the Public Schools of Robeson County close, we will accept entries postmarked on the day they next open. You may also send the forms and entries electronically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have two great entries. Can I send in both of them?</td>
<td>If you do, the first one opened will be entered (if it qualifies) and the other one discarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What about pictures or graphics? Can I include them?</td>
<td>You may, but the judges will be getting photocopies. Sometimes graphics can obscure the words and that hurts the chances that the entry will win.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I work at UNCP? Can I enter?</td>
<td>Yes, in the “General” category.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>