**POETRY CONTEST INFORMATION**

Oprelle Publications enjoys finding “diamonds in the rough.” O.P. wants to recognize hidden talent by giving writers a chance to be published. 2020’s book project is an Anthology entitled “Matter.” Poetry entries should apply to this basic “matter” concept; in any way you may interpret that. Shakespeare’s Queen Gertrude once requested “more **matter** with less art…” Meaning, give me something of substance.

**Matter** can mean so many things to so many different people.

Black lives matter

Our pain matters

Laughter matters

We are made of star matter

Being here…

Everything

Nothing

…. There are a million varying ways you can interpret this Anthology title. The word “matter” does **not** need to be included in your poem. (**The omission of it is encouraged.** We don’t want readers to be overwhelmed.) Just make it your own.

Here are a few good poems that nicely demonstrate a reflection the term “matter.”

“Inside of this darkness

That I love so well,

I search for my pieces

that broke when I fell.

A mosaic of strength

built for your eye to feast,

I came to hell shaken

But I’m leaving, a beast.”

-CWpoet <3

“Every time I hold your hand in the night and look at that star, I remember the fact that it is millions of light years away from us, we are looking at its past and it doesn't exist anymore and I always end up feeling, what if we both are made up of the dust of the same star we are staring at.”

― Akshay Vasu

then one day

she just decided

she would live

for herself,

and not for others,

and nobody

had the power

to make her

unhappy

ever

again. – Mark Anthony

The top three winners will receive a letter and prize winnings by regular mail. Winners may be called to verify their identities. All winning entries will be posted on our site. Winners names will only be posted with author’s permission.

Contest entries for ***Matter*** will be accepted August 15th through September 30th of 2020.

**PRIZES**

Prizes are as follows:

1st – 200.00 - Certificate - Prime Anthology Placement (Back cover of Book) - Free copy of “Matter.” A featured position for a minimum of one week on Oprelle Publication’s Website.

2nd – 100.00 - Certificate - Prime Anthology Placement (First Page) - Free copy of “Matter.”

3rd – 50.00 - Certificate - Prime Anthology Placement – (Last Page) Free copy of “Matter.”

Semi-Finalists (Between 50 and 100) will receive publication in the “Matter” Anthology.

Finally, really great writers can be published in *something that Matters*! Anthologies containing our winners’ works will be available for purchase on Amazon. (Possibly for Christmas 2020.)

**ELIGIBILITY**

The contest is open to anyone age thirteen and up who writes poetry.

**JUDGING**

Contest entries are judged by a highly educated panel of experts who hold these qualifications:

* An award-winning writer with a BA in English
* A first-place overall winner in short fiction, playwriting, and poetry in the IUP 2020 undergraduate creative writing contest.
* A published poet and songwriter from Pennsylvania Literary Society’s magazine
* A PHD in Instructional Management and Leadership
* A Master of Arts in Teaching
* A Secondary Education/ English Teacher
* A founder of the Fayette County Creative Coalition
* Plus, several academically minded teenagers to keep us grounded!

First Round - A minimum of 3 judges must present an overall score of 1 to 5 stars.

Second round – A minimum of 6 judges must score each work on a scale of 1 to 10 stars.

Judges are scoring:

1. Creativity - Surprising, convincing language that grabs our attention right away, and keeps us intrigued to the end. Take us on a journey.
2. Originality – A blending of language and unexpected syntax creates a special overall piece.
3. Substance - The poem is from the soul: every word is vital to our full comprehension.
4. Conventions – (Of course, grammar rules can be bent in poetry.) Poet utilizes punctuation to create a desired tone, to strengthen certain words or phrases, to give signals, and to indicate pauses.
5. Feeling - Poem is filled with vivid, interesting, relevant details and/or memorable, concrete images that provoke emotion… We love Goosebumps and poems that make us think!

**PUBLICATION**

Contestants who reach the semi-finalist stage of the contest will be featured in the “Matter” Anthology. No purchase is required to be included in this anthology. There will be no royalties paid to contributors of anthologies. This Anthology will be available for purchase through Amazon.com….and possibly other bookstores worldwide. By submitting a poem to our contest… you accept that, if selected, your poem may appear online and in print. We reserve the right to not publish a poem for any reason.

**COPYRIGHT**

“Matter” Anthology will be copyrighted with the U.S. Library of Congress as a compilation. All individual poetry remains the property of the author.

See next page for rules, terms, and conditions….

**POETRY CONTEST RULES, Terms and conditions**

1. Your information must be able to be verified.
2. Your poem can be written in any poetic style...even unrhymed free verse!
3. All material submitted must be original in its entirety.

*(Your work will be checked for plagiarism, so do not copy another’s words.)*

1. You may enter as many poems/times as you like. Just keep in mind that each separate entry costs 10.00 (Very worth a great chance to be published. – We will be choosing 50-100 entries for our 20-21 “Matter” Anthology.)
2. If you have many poems, stories, and art to submit, you may want to consider our Diamond Club\* for inspiration and substantial savings. Diamond club allows for 4 entries per month for a 25.00 monthly account fee. This can continue into future contests as well.
3. Entrants that are chosen for publication must submit a consent to publish form that is signed by a parent or guardian. (Those over 18 years old may sign for themselves.)
4. Your poem must be written in English.
5. Contest entries must be at least 3 lines, but no longer than 40 lines. Your poem title doesnot count as a line.
6. Your entry should be typed and submitted as a word document.
   * Times New Roman – 12 font – 1.5 spaced. (Although, we have made a few exceptions where poets have e-mailed us a legible picture or sent via regular mail.)
7. Poem must adhere to basic rules of capitalization:
   * Do not use all capital letters.
   * The first word of each line **may or may not**be capitalized if it is done consistently throughout.
8. Poems containing language that is greatly inappropriate will be disqualified.
9. We will get back to you on average within 60 days ONLY if you make it through round two of judging, becoming a *to be published* semi-finalist.
10. We cannot respond to every entry, so please do not inquire.
11. Poems, on occasion, are sent by mail. Please understand that these poems will not be returned.