



Talk the Poem National Poetry Recitation Competition

Rules for Participation

Here are the general rules and guidelines for participation in the *Talk the Poem National Poetry Recitation Competition*. The Executive Committee may add to these rules and guidelines between January and April 2023 but the information presented here will remain applicable at all points throughout the Competition.

Student Eligibility

All students between the ages of thirteen (13) and nineteen (19) who are enrolled in a Jamaican secondary school are eligible to participate in the *Talk The Poem* competition during January – April 2023.

Poem Selection

All poems to be recited by students at all levels of the competition **must** be selected from the *Talk The Poem* Anthologies, which can be found on the Talk The Poem webpage on the School of Education, Mona Campus website:

<https://www.mona.uwi.edu/soe/talk-poem/talk-poem-anthologies>

The Competition

Level 1 - School: Teachers from the English Department of all participating schools will facilitate the hosting of a *Talk The Poem* competition at their respective schools during January 2023. Members of the Executive Committee and various Team Leaders will aim to be a part of this process whenever this is possible. Competing students will be asked to recite one (1) poem from the anthology (**either** a Caribbean or British poem). Teachers will be expected to judge students based on the judging criteria for the *Talk The Poem National Poetry Recitation* competition, which can be found on the Competition's webpage. The top three (3) participants will then need to register for the County Level competitions, by February 8, 2023. There is a **\$500.00** Registration Fee charge which must accompany the submission of the student registration form or must be paid on the morning of the County competition **before** the competition begins.

Level 2 - County: The second round of the competition will be held across our three counties: Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey. The competitions will take place in Mandeville, Montego Bay and Kingston. School entries will be processed based on the county to which the school belongs. Students will be expected to recite the poem they recited at Level 1, and another poem. At this level, students must recite **one** Caribbean and **one** British poem. So, if students select a Caribbean poem at Level 1, they should now select a British poem at this level, or vice versa.

Level 3 – National Finals: The final round of the competition will be held on April 18, 2023 at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. The top five (5) participants from each of the County competitions will be selected to participate in this round. The final event will have two stages. The fifteen (15) participants will recite one British poem and one Caribbean poem in the

first stage. The top five students will move on from this stage to the second and final stage, where contestants will be asked to recite an additional poem (either an additional British or an additional Caribbean poem) of their choice. At the end of this stage, judges will then be asked to select the three top finalists from this group.

GENERAL RULES ON THE SELECTION AND RECITATION OF POEMS

Teachers are encouraged to allow students to select their own poems, but to guide students as to which poem best suits the student based on personality, voice and experience. Through recitation, students ought to feel free to convey their own engagement with and interpretation of a given poem through the voicing of the poems they have selected for the competition's events. Teachers and students are also advised to select poems for each contestant, which demonstrate variation in their levels of difficulty. Additionally, it is also important that both teachers and students understand that, although this competition focuses on the delivery aspect of learning and presenting a poem, students are to be aware of the fact that judging for this competition will be based on the presentation of the spoken word and not on any theatrical or dramatic representation of a poem. Props and overt gesticulation are not allowed and contestants will be penalized accordingly for use of these features in their recitation.