

National Amateur Poetry Competition Winners

Sponsored by Poetry Nation  January – June 2025

FIRST PLACE

Samantha Shafrath

Silent Ballads: A Villanelle

SECOND PLACE

Presley Boutwell / Columbus, MS *When the Kudzu Grows*

Kristina Casubolo / Norwalk, CT *Hearts in the Parking Lot*

Ella Englert / Springfield, MO *A Name Meaning Goddess*

Jesse Featherstone / Brooklyn, NY *Don't Think That You Are Not Amused*

Chloe Frailley / Chattanooga, TN *(lunch) Fresh Catch (in Memoriam)*

Suhani Goyal / San Ramon, CA *Periwinkle*

Katie Grams / New York, NY *The Mirror*

Dan Hendricks / Florence, AL *Coincidence of Opposites*

David Huff / Auburndale, FL *Iguana Rain*

Todd Hughes / Minneapolis, MN *Simple Villanelle*

Quinn Kelsey / Decatur, GA *Dying Days*

Violet Mitchell / Arvada, CO *Lunar Eclipse*

Elizabeth O'Brien / Philadelphia, PA *The Cost of Eggs*

Luna Ortiz / Warsaw, IN *Tamarindo Revisited*

Katherine Phan / Riverside, CA *A Letter to Anger*

Devon Powers / Philadelphia, PA *Trapping a Murderer with a Milk Crate*

Krista Ruffo / Orlando, FL *Bravo*

Alexia Sextou / Evanston, IL *The Bedroom*

Anthony Vernon / Cutler Bay, FL *Dionysus in Vegas*

Ray Wolbert / Mountain City, TN *Lantern Hills*

THIRD PLACE

Aisha Ali / Rochester, MN *Born from Sacrifice That Bent My Spine*

Kevin Barney / Provo, UT *The Pale Horseman*

Sadie Bean / Denver, CO *Before We Made Summer "Great" Again*

Joel Belland / Kiel, WI *Listen*

Kerith Bourff / Crawfordsville, IN *Dread of Night*

Jeff Bresee / Mansfield, TX *Strangers Unaware*

Kenneth Carroll / Slidell, LA *Corpse*

Danie Cooper / Red Bay, AL *What Made the Crows Mad?*

Darrell Costa / Los Angeles, CA *Great Plans*

Daniel Cudahy / Los Angeles, CA *Class Dismissed*

Jeffrey Dangelo / Blue Ridge, GA *The Ghosts of Magdalen Isles*

Corinne Davis / Montpelier, VT *Trepidations*

Melah Davis / Forest Grove, OR *Elegy for Perfect Hair*

Sasha Dean / Pacific Grove, CA *Green Onions*

Rebecca Dempsey / Cocoa Beach, FL *Unexpected Stranger*

Devika Dhanesh / Livingston, NJ *Typewriter's Tea*

Tristan Ebrahimi / Darien, CT *Kite Runners*

Wilson Engel / Beachwood, OH *Silent Life Dancer*

Annette Gagliardi / Minneapolis, MN *A Sonnet Assignment*

Robin Gerhardt-Linkens / Queensbury, NY *In the Oracle's Chamber*

Panyi Gong / Long Island City, NY *Who Is the Real Monster*

Ryanne Good / Gloucester, VA *Addictus*

Victoria Herrera / West Maimi, FL *Gardenias and Leather*

Heike Hughes / Lucas, TX *Warships Gone Astray*

Jessica Hwang / Boston, MA *Inheritance*

Barbara Jean / Westfield, NY *Plain English*

Callen Leonetti / Ventura, CA *Audition*

Cody Marsh / Carthage, NC *Another Day Must Come*

Robert Mohr / Highlands Ranch, CO *I Will Not Bow*

Philip Morgan / Howard Beach, NY *Dat Dar Drownin' Chain*

Dalan Nelson / Salem, UT *Woman in the Fountain*

Charlotte Norejko / Denver, CO *Legacy*

Azaida Pressley / Philadelphia, PA *A Cry for Help*

Camila Raffucci / Carolina, PR *The Impossible Blue*

Patricia Richter / New Berlin, WI *Sunday Afternoon*

Carmen Ruestow / Boulder, CO *A Leopard*

Mina Ryu / San Jose, CA *Stay Here*

Leslie Sell / Clarkston, MI *Familiar Glow*

Ariana Semsarha / Porter Ranch, CA *Student*

AJ Shannon / Clifton Park, NY *It Finds a Way*

Elizabeth Shenk / Erwin, NC *Sinuar's Elegy*

Mya Stock / Valrico, FL *When Lost It Cannot Be Regained*

Lance Thompson / Maryville, TN *Ink Stains*

Gracelyn Van Gundy / Urbandale, IA *Peach Pit*

Mike Wahl / Athens, AL *Advisory*

Joshua Walther / Middleburgh, NY *Blotted Vellum*

Amy Warburton / Canton, MA *Find Me Unfound*

Austin Ward / Mineral Ridge, OH *The Land of White Churches*

Kaylyn Weaver / Coral Springs, FL *Sonnet—A Winter's Day*

Cassidy Yee / Harrington Park, NJ *Handcraft*