

2008 WILLA CATEGORY RUBRIC

CHILDREN'S/YA – POETRY

Note: If a poetry anthology is chosen as a WILLA winner or finalist, the compiler will be honored.

Poetry Collection	Ineligible	4-7 points	8-10 points
1. Women of the West Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male main character(s), no relevant theme in most poems • Western landscape (natural or human-made) nonexistent or irrelevant* • Poems do not portray authentic western experiences • Theme & content of most poems do not reflect WWW's mission & goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female character(s), relevant theme in most poems • Western landscape (natural or human-made) somewhat important* • Most poems portray authentic western experiences • Theme & content of most poems reflect WWW's mission & goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female main character(s), relevant theme consistent • Western landscape (natural or human-made) primary & essential* • Poems consistently portrays authentic western experiences • Theme & content of all poems excellent reflections of WWW's mission & goals
	0-3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
2. Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People/characters not well developed, or not appropriate for young readers • Stereotypes evident in many or all poems** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People/characters generally well developed & appropriate for young readers • Most poems convey no gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people/characters believable & appropriate for young readers • No gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented**

	0-3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
3. Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting not important • Setting not portrayed accurately • Illustrations (if used) & text inconsistent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of moderate importance • Setting generally portrayed accurately • Illustrations (if used) & text generally matched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting supports book's theme • Setting consistently portrayed accurately • Illustrations (if used) & text well matched
4. Content, Ideas, & Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter not likely to emotionally engage young readers • Poems not organized by theme or topic • Most poems inadequately depict an idea, experience, or emotion • Little evidence of logical or effective order or sequence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter somewhat emotionally engaging for young readers • Adequate focus on overall theme or topic • Most poems depict an idea, experience, or emotion; some poems stronger than others • Poems moderately well arranged in logical & effective order, with workable flow from one to the next 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter emotionally engaging for young readers • Excellent, cohesive focus on overall theme or topic • Each poem depicts an idea, experience, or emotion • Poems consistently arranged in logical & effective order, with excellent flow from one to the next
5. Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little or no sense of poet's/poets' individual style(s) • Word choice rarely reflects or evokes poems' themes, sounds, or emotions • Difficult to read aloud • Poems unlikely to be read more than once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poet's/poets' individual style(s) sometimes apparent • Word choice sometimes reflects or evokes poems' themes, sounds, or emotions • Rhythm creates adequate "read- aloud" quality; some lapses • Some poems likely to resonate during multiple readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poet's/poets' individual style(s) clearly apparent • Word choice often reflects or evokes poems' themes, sounds, or emotions • Inherent rhythm creates excellent "read-aloud" quality • Poems likely to resonate during multiple readings

	0-3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
6. Literary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor or inappropriate command of language • Imagery abstract or clichéd • Rhyme (if used) forced or incomplete • Little or no demonstrated grasp of poetic conventions & devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally good command of language • Some use of concrete, fresh imagery • Rhyme (if used) generally good • Adequate grasp of poetic conventions & devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently strong command of language • Consistently concrete, fresh imagery • Rhyme (if used) consistently excellent • Clear grasp of poetic conventions & devices
7. Technical Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent problems with grammar, punctuation, spelling • Line breaks & poems' shapes confusing • Word count, sentence structure, vocabulary inappropriate for target audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar, punctuation, spelling generally good • Line breaks & poems' shapes adequate • Word count, sentence structure, vocabulary appropriate for target audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar, punctuation, spelling consistent good; unique constructions clearly intentional & effective • Line breaks & poems' shapes carefully considered • Word count, sentence structure, vocabulary excellent for target age group

	0-3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
8. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrations (if used) inadequate, unpleasing • Unattractive cover art & design • Interior design features lacking • Font & typesetting difficult to read; not used to support collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrations (if used) adequate, pleasing • Adequate cover art & design • Design features moderately support to collection • Font & typesetting used adequately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrations (if used) appropriate, well executed, engaging • Attractive, appropriate, compelling cover art & design • Excellent design features support collection • Font & typesetting used effectively

* WWW defines “the west” as all of North America west of the Mississippi River.

** Depiction of peoples’ biases or stereotypical views, presented in context, may be appropriate.

This rubric was created by and for Women Writing the West, October, 2006.