

**WILLA CATEGORY RUBRIC**  
**ADULT POETRY<sup>©</sup>**  
*(Created October 2007)*

**Note: If a poetry anthology is chosen as a WILLA Winner or Finalist, the compiler will be honored**

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



	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
4. Content, Ideas, & Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject matter not likely to emotionally engage readers</li> <li>• Poems not organized by theme or topic</li> <li>• Most poems inadequately depict an idea, experience, or emotion</li> <li>• Little evidence of logical or effective order or sequence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject matter somewhat emotionally engaging for readers</li> <li>• Adequate focus on overall theme or topic</li> <li>• Most poems depict an idea, experience, or emotion; some poems stronger than others</li> <li>• Poems moderately well arranged in logical &amp; effective order, with workable flow from one to the next</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject matter emotionally engaging for readers</li> <li>• Excellent, cohesive focus on overall theme or topic</li> <li>• Each poem depicts an idea, experience, or emotion</li> <li>• Poems consistently arranged in logical &amp; effective order, with excellent flow from one to the next</li> </ul>
5. Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little or no sense of poet's/poets' individual style(s)</li> <li>• Word choice rarely reflects or evokes poems' themes, sounds, or emotions</li> <li>• Difficult to read aloud</li> <li>• Poems unlikely to be read more than once</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poet's/poets' individual style(s) sometimes apparent</li> <li>• Word choice sometimes reflects or evokes poems' themes, sounds, or emotions</li> <li>• Rhythm creates adequate "read-aloud" quality; some lapses</li> <li>• Some poems likely to resonate during multiple readings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poet's/poets' individual style(s) clearly apparent</li> <li>• Word choice often reflects or evokes poems' themes, sounds, or emotions</li> <li>• Inherent rhythm creates excellent "read-aloud" quality</li> <li>• Poems likely to resonate during multiple readings</li> </ul>
6. Literary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor or inappropriate command of language</li> <li>• Imagery abstract or clichéd</li> <li>• Rhyme (if used) forced or incomplete</li> <li>• Little or no demonstrated grasp of poetic conventions &amp; devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally good command of language</li> <li>• Some use of concrete, fresh imagery</li> <li>• Rhyme (if used) generally good</li> <li>• Adequate grasp of poetic conventions &amp; devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistently strong command of language</li> <li>• Consistently concrete, fresh imagery</li> <li>• Rhyme (if used) consistently excellent</li> <li>• Clear grasp of poetic conventions &amp; devices</li> </ul>



	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
7. Technical Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent problems with grammar, punctuation, spelling</li> <li>• Line breaks &amp; poems' shapes confusing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar, punctuation, spelling generally good</li> <li>• Line breaks &amp; poems' shapes adequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grammar, punctuation, spelling consistently good; unique constructions clearly intentional &amp; effective</li> <li>• Line breaks &amp; poems' shapes carefully considered</li> </ul>
8. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrations (if used) inadequate, unpleasing</li> <li>• Unattractive cover art &amp; design</li> <li>• Interior design features lacking</li> <li>• Font &amp; typesetting difficult to read; not used to support collection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrations (if used) adequate, pleasing</li> <li>• Adequate cover art &amp; design</li> <li>• Design features moderately support to collection</li> <li>• Font &amp; typesetting used adequately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrations (if used) appropriate, well executed, engaging</li> <li>• Attractive, appropriate, compelling cover art &amp; design</li> <li>• Excellent design features support collection</li> <li>• Font &amp; typesetting used effectively</li> <li>• Properly bound, i.e. audio books and e-books</li> </ul>

\* 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.

