

The Life of Words

POETRY COMPETITION

Write a poem *about* a word



IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED

- ▶ Think about how a word sounds, and whether it sounds like what it means (or not).
- ▶ Find a word that has an interesting double (or triple!) meaning.
- ▶ Try to explain the significance of a word you know in another language.
- ▶ Research how a word has been used in the past, maybe by particular people or groups.
- ▶ Describe how a word looks on the page.

RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

- ▶ The *Oxford English Dictionary*.
- ▶ Regional and dialect dictionaries.
- ▶ Frances Leviston, “Gliss”
- ▶ William Shakespeare, “Sonnet 135”
- ▶ Emily Dickinson, “There is a word”
- ▶ Paul Muldoon, “Anseo”
- ▶ Carol Ann Duffy, “Syntax”

PRIZES

- ▶ Winner: \$100 gift-card to spend at Chapters.ca, plus:
- ▶ Runner(s) up: Inscribed prize copy of *The School Bag* anthology and a 1-Year subscription to *The New Quarterly* for you and your school library, plus:
- ▶ Honorable mentions: Publication of your poem in *The Life of Words Anthology*.

HOW TO ENTER

- ▶ Send your poem* to thelifeofwords@sju.ca before 15 April 2016.
- ▶ Include your full name, school, and grade.
- ▶ All participants must be Ontario secondary school students to be eligible.

* Note: by submitting a poem you agree to its publication, online or in print, under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license. Submission does not guarantee publication. No correspondence will be entered into.

~ Questions about this contest and its rules may be directed to Prof. David-Antoine Williams (St. Jerome's University).