

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!

# POETRY COMPETITION

## 2018 COMPETITION THEME

Write a poem about some aspect or aspects of the

*meaning of a word*

THE  
LIFE  
OF  
WORDS

### TIPS TO GET YOU GOING



- Aspects of “meaning” include definition, connotation, and impression. What does a word “mean,” beyond its dictionary definition?
- Think past what a word means to *just* you — what has it meant to others, or what *could* it mean?
- If you know another language than English, try to convey the true meaning of a favorite word in that language.
- Write about a word with a double (or multiple...) meaning.
- Research how a word came into English and the changes in its meaning from the donor language to ours.
- Research what a word has meant at different times in the development of the language, and write a poem about it.
- Make up a new word and write a poem to define its meaning.
- Does the sound of a word contribute to its meaning? Explore.

### RESOURCES



- The *Oxford English Dictionary*.
- Regional, dialect, and foreign-language dictionaries.
- Etymological dictionaries, like [www.etymonline.com](http://www.etymonline.com).
- Poetry collections and anthologies.

### PRIZES



- Winner: \$100 gift-card to spend at Indigo.ca, plus:
- Runner(s) up: Inscribed prize copy of a poetry 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 2018*.

### HOW TO ENTER



- Email your poem\* by 27 April 2018 to [thelifeofwords@sju.ca](mailto:thelifeofwords@sju.ca)
- To be eligible, include in your email: your full name, school, and grade.
- All participants must be students at an Ontario high school to be eligible.
- For information and news, and to download a .pdf of this flyer, visit [thelifeofwords.uwaterloo.ca/competition-2018/](http://thelifeofwords.uwaterloo.ca/competition-2018/)
- Follow us on twitter @thelifeofwords

\*Note: by submitting a poem you agree to its publication, online or in print, under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>). Submission does not guarantee publication. No correspondence will be entered into. Questions regarding this contest may be directed to Professor David-Antoine Williams (St. Jerome's University).

