



## 2015 Poetry Contest "Nature in Your Backyard"

### Bug Spots

This bug carries spots on his back  
Last summer he carried these spots  
Now it is spring and he is back here again  
With a domino design over his wings  
All winter he has been in a bedroom in a hole,  
    in a hammock, hung up, stuck away  
Stashed while the snow blew over . . .  
    the wind and the dripping icicles  
The tunnels of the frost  
Now he has errands again in a rotten stump

Carl Sandburg, 1930



Your students are invited to submit a poem to Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site's annual Student Poetry Contest. The contest encourages youth to explore writing their own poetry, and is open to students nationwide!

- Submissions are accepted from grades 3-12 and must be postmarked by March 16, 2015.
- See reverse for submission rules

# Official 2015 Contest Rules

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## Theme

Carl Sandburg enjoyed spending time and writing about the natural world surrounding him. From the prairie cornfields of the midwest to the Carolina mountains he found inspiration to capture nature in poetry. As he was a poet of the common man he also found inspiration in nature in common places like his own backyard.

Poetry submitted under the theme “Nature in Your Backyard” can take a variety of forms. Students should be encouraged to visit a “backyard” which can be at home, the school playground or garden, or a community park. They can use plants, animals, insects, even the weather as inspiration for their poem.

For younger writers teachers may wish to use the 3-5th grade poetry lesson “Poets and Poetry” as a way to get started found on the park’s website at <http://www.nps.gov/carl/forteachers/upload/ES35-pre-fog.pdf>.

## Submission Rules

- Poetry accepted from 3-12th grades only.
- Poems must be submitted by a teacher (including homeschool).
- No more than three poems per classroom (each from a different student).
- Poem will be judged on its ability to communicate the theme.
- Poem can be written in any style, but must not exceed one-page in length. No illustrations.
- Poems must be typed, no handwritten entries.
- Do not place any identifying information (name, school, grade, etc...) on poem.
- Submission form:
  - Paperclipped to poem, no staples
  - Must be signed by parent, student and teacher
  - Include title of poem so we can match the entry with the student

Submissions must be postmarked, faxed, or hand-delivered by Monday, March 16, 2015. If you have any questions regarding the Student Poetry Contest, please contact Ginger Cox, Education Program Coordinator at (828) 693-4178 or by e-mail at

[ginger\\_hollingsworth-cox@nps.gov](mailto:ginger_hollingsworth-cox@nps.gov).

## Judging

Judges from the literary community will make the decision for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place within each grade category (3-5th, 6-8th, 9-12th)

Visitors to Carl Sandburg Home NHS during March 30 - April 12 can cast a vote for their favorite poem within each grade category; poems with the most votes at the end of the voting period will win a People’s Choice award.

Winners will be notified during the week of April 13, and will be invited to present their winning poem at a special reception on Friday, April 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College.

## Poetry Partners

The 2015 Poetry Contest is a result of tremendous community support including the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara and the North Carolina Poetry Society members who serve as judges. Thank



**Send Submissions to:**  
Carl Sandburg Home NHS  
Attn: Poetry Contest  
81 Carl Sandburg Lane  
Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731

Fax 828-693-4179