



Competition Guidelines

Winning poems from each class will be included in a one-off, special edition poetry book, published by Macmillan Education.

Submission Deadline:

All entries must be submitted by **Friday 12th September 2025** (subject to change at the discretion of Macmillan Education). Late entries will not be accepted.

Before You Submit:

Please read the [competition terms and conditions](#) carefully. By entering this competition, you agree that you have read and agree to these terms.

A parent, guardian or teacher, must submit primary or secondary school student's entries on their behalf.

Every entry **must include a signed permission form**. Submissions without a completed permission form will not be accepted. For primary or secondary students, the form must be signed by a parent or guardian.

[Download permission form here](#)

The competition has three classes:

- Primary School Students (Grades 3-6 / Belize Middle & Upper Division)
- Lower Secondary School Students
- Primary & Secondary School Teachers

Poem Requirements:

Write a poem based on **ONE** of the following themes:

- The Weather
- Nature
- The Sea
- Food
- An Animal
- A Festival

Your poem should:

- Be between **8 and 20 lines**
- Be written in **Standard English** (Creole words may be used for effect)
- Be your **original** work created **by one individual**. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to generate poems is strictly prohibited. All submissions will be thoroughly reviewed and any entries suspected of using AI will be disqualified.
- Be written in **your chosen poetic form**, for example: free verse, rhyming verse, acrostic, or rap.

You are encouraged to include **drawn illustrations** along with your poem. However, these are optional and will not be judged as part of the competition.

Judging Criteria:

Poems will be judged within each of the three classes on the following:

- **Relevance** to the chosen theme,
- **Clarity** of expression,
- **Use of language**, including choice of vocabulary, use of imagery (similes, alliteration, etc), and
- **Originality** and **imagination**.

How to Submit your poem:

[Submit your poem using this form](#)

Click the link above and either **type your poem** directly into the answer box or **uploading a scanned copy of handwritten work** (*ensuring your handwriting is legible*).

When submitting your entry, please have your signed permission form and images of your illustration (*if applicable*) ready to upload at the same time.

One poem/entry per person.

Entries can be made at any time before the competition deadline. Early submissions are encouraged as the deadline is subject to change.

If you encounter technical difficulties, please contact us at:

caribbean@macmillaneducation.com

From all of us as Macmillan Education Caribbean - good luck!

Macmillan Education Supportive Material:

You may find the following pages useful when writing your poem.



Language Tree (LT)	LT 3 rd Edition	LT 2 nd Edition	LT Jamaica
Steel Band Jump Up	SB3 Page 43	SB3 Page 38	WB3 page 62
Drinking Water Coconut	SB3 page 65	SB3 page 60	
Who has seen the wind?	SB4 page 51	SB4 page 45	
Gran can you rap?	SB4 page 73	SB5 page 64	
Rain in Summer	SB5 page 43	SB5 page 31	
The Coconut Groove	SB5 page 106	SB5 page 97	
The River			SB4 page 128
The Party			SB5 page 82



English Matters 2 nd Edition	Pan Caribbean	Jamaica
Daredevil Gran	SB1 page 146	Grade 7 page 74
The New Boy	SB2 page 176	Grade 7 page 102
Blind Horse	SB1 page 129	Grade 7 page 104
Under an African Sky	SB1 page 176	
And Then What?	SB3 page 15	
Why?		Grade 9 page 21
On the Shore		Grade 9 page 32