

POETRY

Overall Evaluation

1. Is the entry presented in an acceptable book organizational layout (i.e., introduction, preface, foreword, afterword, and/or author biography) and in format (i.e., margins, spacing, chapter/section divisions, overall readability, etc.)?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Please rank the aptness of the book title in relation to the themes and content of the book.
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Opening

1. Do the opening poems draw you in?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Have you been intrigued enough to want to read on?
 - a. Excellent

- b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Is there an appropriateness and “rightness” to the titles of each poem?
- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
4. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Premise/Themes

1. Is the theme or message of the project clear so that what is promised by the title and supporting information is what you get in the reading?
- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Is there enough continuity and inherent dramatic unity within each poem to provide an uninterrupted development of the theme(s)?
- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Is the theme/message of the poems well handled in subtext, or does (do) the writer(s) tend to overstate or understate it?

- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
4. The poems may be complicated, but they should not be so esoteric that the reader can't make sense of them. Can the Meaning and Basic Theme (the message of the poem) be paraphrased so that most intelligent readers can say or sense what the poem is all about?
- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
5. Even if you didn't like the theme(s), did you still feel the poems were presented effectively and with power and/or authority?
- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
6. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Setting/World Building

1. Does the poet(s) create a strong sense of place and circumstance in all poems that would seem to require it?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Within each poem, does the world created feel “real” and “true” to the extent that you lose yourself in it completely?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Do setting and imagery add to mood and tone, and are they woven effectively through each poem?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
4. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Specific Poetry Criteria

1. Are the concepts and techniques employed clever, imaginative, and/or unique ideas?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Does the format used follow “rules” of poetry and respect the form of particular types of poems – or successfully “play with” the “rules” in an effective manner?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Does the poet(s) employ appropriate cadence or rhythmic beat, sound echoes, and any other devices (such as figurative language) that appeals to the imagination or engages the reader’s senses?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
4. For traditional verse, do the poems adhere to form while evoking response in the reader, appealing to emotions and/or intellect? For non-traditional verse, does the format selected evoke a response from the reader by appealing to their emotions and/or intellect?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average

- d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
5. In the realm of Technical Detail (i.e., Craftsmanship) of each poem, does the poet(s) use apt phrases, assonance, alliteration, freshness of rhyme, balance of lines against one another, rhythmic quality, absence of redundancy, economy of words so that the form and content of the poem complement one another?
- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
6. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Use of Language

1. Do the imagery, symbols, metaphors, and the like prompt the reader to imagine or to evoke memories, to feel deeply, or arouse other emotions/senses?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Is the language nuanced with depth and power? Where appropriate, do the language, imagery, and ideas serve to enhance and make the poems more meaningful?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Does the poet(s) use language in a fresh way, avoiding clichés and forced rhymes, with language that is precise and economical? Does the poet(s) pay close attention to the sound of the words?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
4. While some rhyming is to be expected, does the poet(s) avoid contrived, sing-songy, or irritating use of rhyme?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average

- d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
5. Is there originality and vivid description through the use of figures of speech, unexpected phrasing, or other methods of delivering language that is powerful and remarkable?
- a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

6. Is the language fresh and colorful? Or does it feel derivative and flat?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

7. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Narrative Structure

1. Does each poem's writing and its "roll-out" feel fresh and effective within the scope of the shape and structure?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

2. Does the narrative or flow of the poems feel crisp and powerful, or do they seem saggy and cluttered with too much trivial detail?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

3. Do the poems exhibit strength of lead/beginning, tightness, clarity, structure, effective transitions, and satisfactory close?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average

e. Poor/Unacceptable

4. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Style

1. Does the poet maintain a consistent voice? If multiple poets, is there a clear and consistent theme or “voice” allowing for creative variations between poets?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Is the poet’s/poets’ writing vivid, evocative, and readable?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Does the poet(s) show, using action, language, and insight, avoiding needless and flat expository passages (i.e., telling instead of showing)?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
4. Is the writing sensory – with all senses used in proper proportion?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

5. Does the writing (whether hard-edged and difficult or softer and sweeter) have a beauty to it that is striking and attractive, that gives you reading pleasure?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

6. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Content

1. Is each poem well-written, well-edited, and consistently as good as the others in the collection, and has the author/editor presented a work that is successful for its poetic genre, where each part contributes to the whole, and all of the parts of the collection of poems go together with pleasing unity?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

2. Is there variety in tone, style, and content where appropriate, or do all the poems strike the same tone and seem unremarkable?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable

3. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Overall Impressions

1. Flaws aside, how intriguing, memorable, and/or touching did you find these poems? When you reached the end, did you feel an impact – a powerful cumulative effect – from the poetry?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
2. Is there a pleasing balance between the emotions evoked and the intellectualism of the poems?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
3. Did you find a fair amount of universality in the poems so that the majority of the target audience for the topic/subject/themes would be satisfied with the collection?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average
 - d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
4. Even if you found that you did not “like” the collection (because of topic or personal reasons), is the book still remarkable and effective for what the poet(s) was trying to accomplish?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Above Average
 - c. Average

- d. Below Average
 - e. Poor/Unacceptable
5. Please provide additional information regarding your assessment.

Lesbian Content

1. The guidelines for the Goldie Awards require that each work nominated “must contain significant lesbian content, characters, and/or themes.” Lesbian content includes: The main character identifies as a lesbian, and/or the main character is or ends up in a lesbian relationship, and/or the theme or plot deals with lesbian issues and/or lesbian life.
 - a. Significant lesbian content
 - b. Some lesbian content
 - c. No lesbian content

Judge’s Summary

1. Briefly, please summarize what you thought this book was all about.