# SCORING GUIDE: RHYMING POETRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Originality 1-4 points</th>
<th>Creative Expression: Rhyming Poetry 1-4 points</th>
<th>Organization &amp; Overall Impact 1-4 points</th>
<th>Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling 1-4 points</th>
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| **Distinguished** (4 points) | • Writing is based on an original idea or uncommon theme.  
• Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, in a unique voice or with an unexpected element.  
• Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader.  
• The rhyme pattern is clear and rhymes are not predictable. | • The writing demonstrates awareness of audience’s needs.  
• The form of the poem is appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a more potent way than ever before. | • There is one or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling. Appropriate to the subject.  
• Punctuation is utilized when necessary and appropriate or, if not used, is due to content/style choices, not errors, and meaning is not obscured. |
| **Proficient** (3 points) | • Writing is based on an original idea OR includes certain elements of originality. A couple of phrases or ideas may be revisited or underdeveloped  
• Writing is expressive, including some figurative language and/or detailed description.  
• The rhyme pattern is clear, though it may falter. 1 or 2 rhymes may be predictable. | • The writing demonstrates some awareness of the audience’s needs.  
• The form of the poem is appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject. | • There are one or two distracting grammatical or word choice errors. |
| **Apprentice** (2 points) | • Some evidence of original thought is present, but the writing is based on a common theme and does not include elements of originality.  
• Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language but needs improvement in order to engage the reader.  
• The rhyme pattern seems random and/or rhymes are predictable | • The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience’s needs.  
• The form of the poem should be more appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject, but this is accomplished through clichés, worn-out images, or other predictable choices. | • There are several distracting grammatical and/or word choice errors. |
| **Novice** (1 point) | • The writing feels like a retelling and has a common theme. Poem may be repetitive or feel rushed.  
• Writing is very simple and lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader.  
• There is no clear rhyme pattern/no rhyme is used. | • The audience does not seem to have been considered.  
• The form of the poem is not appropriate to the subject.  
• The poem does not enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject. No poetic devices are used. | • Due to numerous grammatical and word choice errors, the writing is difficult to understand. |

Highest possible score = 16 points