

31st ANNUAL AILEEN JAFFA YOUNG POETS CONTEST
Co-sponsored by Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt) and
the National League of American Penwomen (NLAPW), Modesto chapter.

The Modesto Chapter of the National League of American Penwomen and Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center are pleased to facilitate this annual contest honoring poet Aileen Jaffa, the founding president of the Poets of the San Joaquin and member of the NLAPW, Modesto Branch, and to encourage young writers enrolled in Stanislaus County schools to share their best work.

Eligibility and Deadline

Any student enrolled in a Stanislaus County school, grades K through 12, is eligible to submit up to 3 entries, **at \$1 per entry**. Each entry, except for typing, must be the original creative work of the student, although parents or teachers may provide encouragement. Postmark deadline for submissions is **April 3, 2026**. Mail submissions to **MoSt Poetry, P.O. Box 578940, Modesto, CA 95357**. Find the entry form at <https://www.mostpoetry.org/contests/jaffa/>. Information: info@mostpoetry.org

Categories

Poems will be placed in categories according to the student's year in school.
Grades K – 3 2. Grades 4 – 6 3. Grades 7 – 9 4. Grades 10 – 12

Judging and Entry Specifications

Poems will be judged by adult poets who are knowledgeable about young people's work. Any poem that shows evidence of plagiarism will be disqualified. **No simultaneous submissions**. **The poems you enter must not be submitted to other contests at the same time**. **Poems must not have been published nor been winners in other poetry contests**. **Poems may be in any style, but no longer than 24 lines**. **Two copies** of each poem must be submitted: one copy should contain the title and poem, but no identification of the author; the other copy should contain the student's name and a copy of the entry form below, and the \$1 entry fee.

Awards and Recognition

First, second, and third place winners in each category will receive cash awards from the **MoSt Poetry Center**. Prizes are First Place \$25, Second Place \$15, Third Place \$10. In addition, the **Modesto Branch of the NLAPW** will award a *\$60 Aileen Jaffa Outstanding Poem* award in each of two combined categories, Categories 1 and 2, and Categories 3 and 4. The current president of the NLAPW Modesto chapter will present the awards, and the winning poems will be read at an **Awards Ceremony on May 16 at the Carnegie Arts Center, 250 N. Broadway, Turlock**. For more information, contact info@mostpoetry.org.

Fill out and attach a copy of this form to one copy of each poem

Name _____ Grade _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____

School _____ Teacher _____

Teacher's email: _____

Poem Title _____

I certify that the above poem is my own original creation. (Signed) _____