



*Spark is a quarterly literary magazine and recently held a poetry contest for its readers. Below is the **Judging Criteria** used for the contest:*

Judges are selected from a combination of Spark: A Creative Anthology staff and industry professionals. Each contest invites participation of at least two judges unaffiliated with Spark.

Judging is blind (that is, author and poet names are hidden from the judges) and considers the following areas:

Technical Elements

Style & Presentation

Formal, modern, or freeform styles are employed appropriately and consistently. Defined structures are adhered to or intentional deviations are clear and effective. Meter & rhyme, if employed, are consistent and enhance the presentation of the poem. The approach to punctuation, spelling, and grammar is consistent and effective, whether following or breaking conventions.

Language

Word choice and order are precise, colorful, and evocative, and create audible appeal.

Form

Line length, enjambment and caesura, along with word choice and order, enhance the clarity, meaning, and movement of the poem.

Artistic Elements

Theme

The poem effectively explores or relates to the theme of the contest.

Drama

The poem as a whole captures or effectively implies a compelling story.

Imagery

Figurative language creates rich or broad sensory appeal.

Impact

The poem evokes an emotional response from the reader.

Originality

The idea, perspective, or presentation is unique and fresh.