

Poetry Slam Rules

Poetry slams take the poem from the page and onto the stage, where your work is judged by an audience and by a panel of judges. In order to do well, like in all things, you have to know the rules. So here goes:

- ~ Each poem must be the poet's own work.
- ~ Each poet gets three minutes (plus a 10-second grace period) to read one poem.
- ~ If the poet goes over time, points will be deducted from the total score.
- ~ The poet may not use props, costumes or musical instruments.
- ~ Poems will be judged based on their literary merit, but realize a good performance may capture a judge's attention.
- ~ Of the scores the poet receives from the five judges, the high and low scores are dropped, and the middle three are added, giving the poet a total score of 0 to 30.