

As a judge of poetry, I was amazed at the inspiring poetic understandings of several topics; political, natural, friends and family. They were authentic and heartfelt observations. I had a difficult time with several poems because they all appeared to need a high score. Many spoke as if they wanted to have people sense how important racial and cultural equality is in their lives.

The teachers also need to be complimented for encouraging their students to speak from their hearts. We need poets today more than ever to help our country regain a positive balance, so all are seen as important as we move forward.

- Anne M. Picard