

April 2021

Dear Poets,

Thank you for sharing your poetry with me. It is a privilege to get a peek at your inner-most thoughts through your poems. I treasure judging this contest every year. Most years the poems submitted reflect the turbulence in society, or the state of injustice in your schools, in your homes. Writer and poet Jeanette Winterson said, “A tough life needs a tough language – and that is what poetry is. That is what literature offers – a language powerful enough to say how it is...”.

I hope you all continue to use your unique poetic gifts in tough times and in good times. Your words are powerful. Poetry is a vehicle of revealing your truth. I wish you each all the best! Keep writing!

Mary Kolles