

**2016/17 NACE Poetry Competition: Rules**

1. Entrants can choose to write about any subject within the general theme of “new beginnings”. You might want to think about the change of the seasons, crops starting to grow, the weather getting warmer, animals waking up or returning from warmer climates – or perhaps think about what is new in your life – starting a new school, meeting new people, learning a new skill. With new beginnings, often other things come to an end. Poems can be serious or silly, funny or sad, short or long but **must not exceed 30 lines**. Illustration is welcomed but judging will be based on the quality of the poem. Illustrations from the winning entries will be used in the e-book of winners.
2. Open to all school pupils in two categories, primary and secondary and closes on Friday 27th January 2017.
3. All poems will be judged by a panel of NACE Trustees, Directors and CEO – the final shortlist will be **judged by Liz Kessler, author for children and young adults**, and the winners will receive an Amazon voucher (primary £30 and secondary £50). Take a look at Liz Kessler’s website for writing tips <http://www.lizkessler.co.uk>.
4. All poems must be the original work of the entrant and should not have been previously published, accepted for publication by a magazine, nor entered in other competitions.
5. Each individual poem, regardless of length, must be typed or handwritten on one sheet of A4 paper.
6. Entrants can submit **up to two poems**. Only one poem by any individual entrant can be included in the final shortlist.
7. Entries should be sent to: **NACE Poetry Competition, The Core Business Centre, Milton Hill, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6AB**. Poems sent via **email will not be accepted**.
8. To qualify, each entry **must be marked** with the **pupil’s name and age** as well as **the responsible teacher’s name, the school address, contact e-mail and telephone number**.
9. Copyright remains with the author, but NACE reserves the right to have entries published on the internet, in an anthology or used for publicity purposes at any stage in the future.
10. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entries not complying with competition rules will be disqualified.
11. NACE cannot accept any responsibility for any problem with the postal service which may result in any entry being lost or delayed. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt. Entries will not be returned, so please remember to keep a copy.
12. NACE reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.