



IPSWICH POETRY FEAST

Tips from Past Judges

Judging is based on the overall quality of the poem within each of the competition age groups and categories.

Judges endeavour to select as winners, the poems that best exemplify one or more of the following criteria:

- ◆ **Creativity** - Inventive and imaginative concepts that captivate the reader.
- ◆ **Originality** - Distinctive and fresh ideas that relate experiences and feelings personal to the writer.
- ◆ **Message** - Inclusion of powerful and/or thought provoking messages.
- ◆ **Impact** - Ability to evoke an emotional and/or intellectual response in the reader eg. laughter, sadness, understanding.
- ◆ **Language** - The use of creative adjectives, vivid descriptions and original metaphors and similes. Economy of words and avoidance of cliches and forced rhymes.
- ◆ **Imagery** - Creation of sensory/figurative images in the minds of readers.
- ◆ **Structure** - Use of poetic devices, such as alliteration, rhythmic quality and rhyming styles. Works that tell a story, express an opinion or describe a situation or a series of events.

Please note that these suggestions are not in any order of importance.

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