

26<sup>th</sup> annual

# POETRY CONTEST

For all ages

## THEME: Missing Pieces

*Submissions due by:*  
Friday, March 27, 2015

*How to enter:*

Please include your name, address, phone number, age, and e-mail (if possible). Students: please include school and grade.

*Submit poems one of three ways:*

- E-mail to [FriendsoftheWestRoxburyLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsoftheWestRoxburyLibrary@gmail.com)
- Mail to:  
Poetry Contest  
West Roxbury Branch Library  
1961 Centre St.  
West Roxbury, MA 02132
- Deliver by hand to the poem drop box in the West Roxbury Branch Library

*Awards Ceremony:*

Thursday, May 7, 2015, at 6:30 pm

West Roxbury Branch Library

Award categories include each of grades K-8, high school, adults, and seniors.

Questions? E-mail [FriendsoftheWestRoxburyLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsoftheWestRoxburyLibrary@gmail.com)

*Contest Sponsored by:*

*The Friends of the West Roxbury Branch Library*

*[FriendsoftheWRLibrary.org](http://FriendsoftheWRLibrary.org)*

Boston  
Public  
Library



# Notes to Contest Participants

From Poet (and Contest Judge) Mary Pinar

- ✍ Write and enter poems that connect to the contest theme. (Note that the theme has many facets and angles — don't be afraid to take it in new and original directions.)
- ✍ Explore your own connections to the theme and consider writing a poem from your personal experience.
- ✍ Use your imagination! Be original and avoid clichés.
- ✍ Consider what will help you express your poem's idea, story, image, or impression. Some possibilities include:
  - Word choice
  - Voice: who is speaking in your poem?
  - Imagery, language that helps paint pictures, sensations
  - Sound, including rhythm, repetition, and rhyme
  - Form or type: free verse, sonnet, haiku, or something you invent
- ✍ Revise, and revise again: your first draft is only a beginning.



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*Theme: Missing Pieces*

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The Friends of the West  
Roxbury Branch Library*

*Friends of the WRLibrary.org*

## **TWO WORDS to parents and teachers: ENCOURAGEMENT & SUPPORT**

**ENCOURAGE** your children and students to express their personal experiences/feelings through poetry.

**SUPPORT** their efforts as much as possible by providing them with unstructured time and a quiet space. Give them permission to explore, experiment, and play with language.