

Rules

1. The competition is open to residents of the island of Ireland.
2. Entries may be in either Irish or English.
3. The closing date for entries is Friday 17 March 2016.
4. The theme of the competition is **“Before the Storm”**.
Only poems on this theme will be shortlisted.
5. Entries are limited to three poems per person.
6. There is no entry fee.
7. Poems must have a title and not exceed 30 lines in length (excl. title).
8. Entries can be electronic or in hardcopy.
9. Hardcopy poems should be printed in black ink on an A4 sheet. However, clear handwritten work will also be accepted.
10. Spoken poetry may also be submitted as mp3 audio files. All audio files must be accompanied by a transcript of the poem.
11. Poems must be the original work of the entrant.
12. Submissions should comply with the Dóchas code of conduct on Image and Messaging. See www.dochas.ie/images-and-messages.
13. Entries must not have been previously published or self-published, in print or online, nor have won a prize in another competition.
14. We define “Published” as a poet who has had their own collection of poetry published by a third party publishing house.
15. All poems are judged anonymously. Poems will be disqualified if they show name, address or any other identifying mark – all details should be on the entry form.
16. Entry implies acceptance of all the rules.
17. Entries cannot be returned – be sure to keep a copy for yourself.
18. The competition organisers reserve the right to change the judging panel without notice.
19. Copyright of each poem remains with the author. However authors of the winning poems, by entering the competition, grant Trócaire and Poetry Ireland the right to publish and/or broadcast their poem for two years from May 2017.
20. The judges’ decision is final. Neither Poetry Ireland nor Trócaire will enter into any correspondence regarding the final decision or regarding individual entries.