

# Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry 2020 Oklahoma Poem Contest Winning Poems

## Adult

- 1<sup>st</sup>, Aunika Anderson, Spiro
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jacquelyn Magrady, Tulsa
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Zachary Wilhite, Claremore

## 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup>, Kaylee Bowman, Grove
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, Justin Herlan, Bluejacket
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Harley Lee, Bluejacket

## 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup>, Aurora Parks, Pryor
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ashlie Nguyen, Yukon
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Zack Strong, Yukon

## K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup>, Jediah Harrison, Grove
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, MeKenzie Smith, Yukon
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Silas Jackson, Grove

1<sup>st</sup> Place, Adult

Oklahoma

Oklahoma

Oh how lovely in the springtime

Where the tall grasses grow high  
And the chigger bites are nigh

Tornado season is sent  
So into the bathtub we went

There's the fishy smell of dogwood trees  
And a line for commodity cheese

Grandma makes the best sweet tea  
Make sure you qualify for a CDIB

Sups on, chicken and dumplings  
Sitting on the porch swings

Watching the painted sunset  
Dripping in our own sweat

Oh how lovely is Oklahoma in the springtime

--Aunika Anderson, Spiro

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Adult

### Recipe

Here is the handed down recipe  
for my land.

Take the bleached bones  
of buffalo

Let them settle into soil.

Fold them into sweet dark dirt

And let them feed red grasses.

Now add whippoorwill and sycamore root.

Add coyote's yellow eye in rustling darkness.

Stir in thunderhead and rain.

Pour it over gentle prairie swells.

Let it steep.

Until it gives off the scent  
of remembering.

--Jacquelyn Magrady, Tulsa

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Adult

The Neosho

Come, gather ye people of red dirt. Clean  
Yourselves in Neosho's mothering arms.  
Cut across streams, crafting your new self here -  
As others did in times of spoken charms  
And bison roamed, scissortails cut the sky.  
Speak in the land's tongue, then foreign native  
Son, then liberated night, then codify  
In the tongue of pale moonlight, translative  
Into unbroken roads and dusty streets;  
Pistons pumping, powering steadily  
Stadiums bathed in sweat of baptized athletes  
Upon wheels of manifest destiny.  
Generations flee as others now grow  
All born, fed and bled by the Neosho.

--Zachary Wilhite, Claremore

1<sup>st</sup> Place, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Oklahoma Sun Dried Tomatoes

It is a hot, dreary summer day.  
I am wearing holey overalls that are hand me downs  
from my sister Sue.  
The sun is beaming down my back  
and I feel a tear of sweat roll down my cheek.  
Today I must work at the local farmers market  
in place of my Pa, I always do on Tuesdays.  
All kinds of people are here, whites, blacks, cowboys,  
and the folks from the city.  
Setting my umbrella up so my skin can rest  
from the heat, is the first thing I must do.  
I am the youngest out of all the merchants here,  
as I will be 12 years of age tomorrow.  
The sun beaten yellow sign labeled "Pa's Produce"  
sits at the feet of this wobbly table.  
Sitting on my folding chair cooling off with a cold rag,  
a tall slender man walks up to me.  
The man asks me why everyone has told him  
to go to "Pa's Produce" booth.  
Sun dried tomatoes, sun dried tomatoes.

--Kaylee Bowman, Grove

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Isn't it Great?

Oklahoma is more than a flyover state  
The diversity in our state is super great  
From the things to do or sightseeing through the land  
Take some time to visit and you will understand

Oklahoma is mostly rural which is a bit overwhelming  
But our quaint small towns are so very charming  
Although there are fun things to do in our big cities  
Venture on out into our cute smaller communities

Driving through Oklahoma you will see wildlife galore  
And if you are lucky you might see a wild boar  
You can hike along the trails in Talimena State Park  
To avoid the bears, you need to be done by dark

You can dig for crystals in the Great Salt Plains  
Or explore the cold dark caves at Alabaster Caverns  
Or go four wheeling across the sand dunes of the Little Sahara  
Or relax and float down the Illinois "Rivera"

You see Oklahoma is more than an flyover state  
We have all sorts of terrains to partake  
Many more activities to do than what was previously pinpointed  
If you visit our great state you will not be disappointed

--Justin Herlan, Bluejacket

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Oklahoma Thunder

The thunder roars in the Oklahoma sky,  
Like echoing cattle being herded across the land.  
Lightning lights up the sky,  
Giving slight glances of the world, dark as night.  
The rain rushes out from the clouds,  
Filling the troughs, but making a mess.  
The cattle are safe under the trees of the persimmon grove.  
City parents hide their kids from the storm,  
And watch to see just how bad it may get.  
But the farmers,  
The farmers are checking the livestock,  
Sitting on a porch swing watching as the clouds roll by,  
Thinking of the damage to be found the morning after.  
The city, and the country, respond to life in different ways,  
But we are all doing what is best for the future of Oklahoma,  
And what is best for us and our home.

--Harley Lee, Bluejacket

1<sup>st</sup> Place, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Oklahoma

We've got 77 counties and 39 tribes here in Oklahoma,  
From miles away you can smell that red dirt aroma.  
You can hear Indians call through the years on distant winds,  
Hanging out with some friendly, joyful kin.  
Gathering the Persimmons, Mulberries, and honey from bees.  
With dogwood, eastern red cedar, black walnut surrounding you with trees.  
Drive on through Oklahoma land of pioneers, outlaws, and bull riders,  
You will most likely see Oklahoma's friends, the snakes and spiders.  
We've got cowboys and Indians both people and toys,  
Don't forget the storm shelter there are tornadoes that destroy.  
Sit back and relax with an ice cold sweet tea or Coca-Cola,  
Hear the tune of the Red Dirt Music of Oklahoma.  
The Oklahoma state meal has 12 different items,  
The only way to eat the meal is to bite em.  
Calf fries are more than meets the eye, and catfish is its own food group,  
Hear one of our mottos Sooners or cowboy but never both.  
This is forever my home and that is my oath.

--Aurora Parks, Pryor

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Beautiful Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher

I sit and watch you glide in the air  
Wishing I had such beautiful wings  
Your wings gray like the rocks under the tree you perch on  
The tip of your tail white like the clouds in the sky you glide through  
You dive and soar through the air  
Like a delicate angel  
I watch as you fly down and snatch a grasshopper  
The grasshopper as green as the grass it feasts on  
I imagine flying in the sky  
Diving and soaring through the sky  
Like a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Flying over the State of Oklahoma  
I run home to fetch up my sketchbook and run back to the tree  
I draw the beautiful Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in flight  
An angel in the clouds  
Hovering over the Oklahoma sky

--Ashlie Nguyen, Yukon

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### The Oklahoma White Bass

Today's adventure begins with an early start,  
With a breakfast on Lake Watonga of a PopTart.  
My Uncle Jody and I put on our life vests,  
Drop the boat and set out on our quest.  
The water's ripples glisten in the light,  
Fishing with Jody is such a delight.  
A Nedrig is my choice of the perfect bait,  
To bring in my prize, I cannot wait.  
Trolling through the lake on a gentle ride,  
Towards the perfect place for our White Bass to hide.  
Flip the reel, pull back and swing,  
The bait flies through the air with a ZING!  
It plunges into the water with a splash,  
The fish zoom towards the sound with a dash.  
The lure drifts to the bottom and then the fun begins,  
Lift the rod gently, lower and reel in.  
I feel a nibble and a tug, is it a rock or moss I wonder?  
Another tug, this is it – don't blunder!  
A quick yank to set the hook and it starts to fight,  
I am reeling and reeling with all my might.  
I have it! I bring it into the boat,  
I caught it myself, I get to gloat.  
Catch and Release is what I do,  
I dropped it back in the water, how about you?

--Zach Strong, Yukon

1<sup>st</sup> Place, K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### The Oklahoma State Flag

The Oklahoma State flag is the color  
Green, blue, tan, white, red, and brown.  
Green is for the land part.  
Blue is for the outside of the flag.  
Tan is for the stripes on the feathers.  
White is for the feathers on it.  
Red is for the crosses on it.  
Brown is for the buffalo skin shield.  
When I see the flag I feel sad  
Because the warriors fought for us.  
Also, I feel happy  
Because the people are peaceful.

--Jediah Harrison, Grove

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Oklahoma State Flower | Oklahoma Rose

Roses are red,  
Roses are pretty,  
Roses are strong,  
Roses are sturdy,  
They are a state emblem,  
They are also a rock,  
They are a flower,  
Roses are on bushes,  
Roses have stems,  
Roses are poky

--MeKenzie Smith, Yukon

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Strawberries

I love to eat strawberries.  
I really, really, really love to look at them.

The color is reddish-pinkish.  
They have a stem and dots.  
It's a stem with five, or four, leaves.  
The dots are really tiny seeds.  
Strawberries are a heartish shape.  
Some look big, some look smaller.  
They're never bigger than an apple.  
They're never smaller than a bean.  
They taste juicy — as juicy as an apple.  
They're sweet.

I love strawberries.  
I really, really, really, really like to eat them.

--Silas Jackson, Grove