

# Vachel Lindsay Poetry Illustration Contest

Sponsored by:  
The Vachel Lindsay Association  
P.O. Box 9356  
Springfield, IL 62791-9356

Email [vachellindsay@gmail.com](mailto:vachellindsay@gmail.com) for  
complete contest guidelines.



## Sharpen Your Color Pencils!

**E**lementary students from kindergarten through sixth grade who live in and around the Springfield area are invited to create an illustration of a selected poem by Vachel Lindsay as part of a celebration of National Poetry Month.

**P**osters should be created on 12x18 paper. Students can use any art supplies to create their illustration. They may choose to incorporate text from their poem into their illustration, but this is not required.

**S**tudents who enter will be categorized by grade level. Those levels are:

- Kindergarten through 1st grade (“The Little Turtle”)
- 2nd through 4th grade (“The Haughty Snail-King”)
- 5th through 6th grade (“The Flower of Mending”)

**C**ontest begins on March 14, 2016 and ends on April 14, 2016. All entries are subject to contest rules and regulations. All entries must be postmarked by April 14, 2016 and include the required authorization and release form to be eligible.

**E**ach grade category will have a first, second and third place winner. First-, second- and third-place artists in each age group will receive a Barnes and Noble gift certificate worth \$25, \$15 and \$10, respectively, along with copies of a poetry book by Vachel Lindsay.

- The Submission must be conceived of and solely executed by the entrant and not previously published. Submission must not infringe the copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity or other intellectual property rights of any person or entity.
- The winner of the Contest will be determined by judging all the entrants’ submissions based on the following criteria: originality 60%, interpretation of the selected Vachel Lindsay poem 40%. All entries will be judged using the criteria stated above. Final judges will be selected from the Springfield arts and historic sites community.
- All entries become the property of the Vachel Lindsay Association and will not be returned. Winners will be required to grant the Vachel Lindsay Association all rights, titles and interest in the submitted entry.
- Entries will be judged in April 2016 and the winners will be notified no later than May 2016.
- If you have any questions about the contest, email the Vachel Lindsay Association at [vachellindsay@gmail.com](mailto:vachellindsay@gmail.com). Visit [vachellindsay.org](http://vachellindsay.org) for complete rules and regulations.

**Kindergarten and First Grade**  
**Vachel Lindsay's "The Little Turtle"**

There was a little turtle.  
He lived in a box.  
He swam in a puddle.  
He climbed on the rocks.

He snapped at a mosquito.  
He snapped at a flea.  
He snapped at a minnow.  
And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito.  
He caught the flea.  
He caught the minnow.  
But he didn't catch me.

**Second, Third and Fourth Grades**  
**Vachel Lindsay's "The Haughty Snail-King"**

Twelve snails went walking after night.  
They'd creep an inch or so,  
Then stop and bug their eyes  
And blow.  
Some folks . . . are . . . deadly . . . slow.  
Twelve snails went walking yestereve,  
Led by their fat old king.  
They were so dull their princeling had  
No sceptre, robe or ring—  
Only a paper cap to wear  
When nightly journeying.

This king-snail said: "I feel a thought  
Within. . . . It blossoms soon. . . .  
O little courtiers of mine, . . .  
I crave a pretty boo. . . .  
Oh, yes . . . (High thoughts with effort come  
And well-bred snails are ALMOST dumb.)  
"I wish I had a yellow crown  
As glistening . . . as . . . the moon."

**Fifth and Sixth Grade**  
**Vachel Lindsay's "The Flower of Mending"**

When Dragon-fly would fix his wings,  
When Snail would patch his house,  
When moths have marred the overcoat  
Of tender Mister Mouse,

The pretty creatures go with haste  
To the sunlit blue-grass hills  
Where the Flower of Mending yields the wax  
And webs to help their ills.

The hour the coats are waxed and webbed  
They fall into a dream,  
And when they wake the ragged robes  
Are joined without a seam.

My heart is but a dragon-fly,  
My heart is but a mouse,  
My heart is but a haughty snail  
In a little stony house.

Your hand was honey-comb to heal,  
Your voice a web to bind.  
You were a Mending Flower to me  
To cure my heart and mind.

Vachel Lindsay

ASSOCIATION

Springfield, Illinois  Established 1946

P.O. BOX 9356, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62791-9356 | E-MAIL: VACHELLINDSAY@GMAIL.COM

### AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Student Information:**

As a participant in the Vachel Lindsay Association Illustration Contest, I hereby grant permission for the Vachel Lindsay Association to use and reproduce my artwork for promotion and/or the display of my artwork and assign to the Vachel Lindsay Association all rights, including copyrights, in my submitted work. I also agree to and acknowledge all rules of the 2016 Vachel Lindsay Illustration Contest, a copy of which has been provided to me.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Parent/Guardian Information:**

I hereby grant permission for my child's artwork to be used by the Vachel Lindsay Association. On behalf of my child, we assign to the Vachel Lindsay Association all rights, including copyrights, in the submitted work. I understand that my child's artwork will be used by the Vachel Lindsay Association for promotion purposes and/or displayed on their website(s). I also agree to and acknowledge all rules of the 2016 Vachel Lindsay Illustration Contest, a copy of which has been provided to me.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this Authorization and Release, along with your entry, to:**

Vachel Lindsay Association, P.O. Box 9356, Springfield, IL 62791-9356