



Children of the Ocean Poetry Contest

Humans for the Future is hosting a poetry contest where Rhode Island public-school students (grades 1-12) may submit poems with a chance win a **\$500 scholarship** and an opportunity to have their poem published in a book. The book will feature the chosen poems with beautiful art from local Rhode Island artists. At least one poem will be selected from each grade to be published in "Children of the Ocean," a poetry book that will represent the creativity of the ocean state.

This is a free contest. No entry fee is required. The Contest dates are February 15st to ~~March 30th~~ **May 15th. In honor of National Poetry Month the contest deadline date has be extended to May 15th.** At the conclusion of the contest, our editorial staff and board of directors will convene and begin the process of judging. We read every single poem, sometimes even two or three times. It takes approximately 4–6 weeks to produce the final results. All winners will receive notification through their school and/or a letter. The first-place winner/winners will be contacted by their school to receive information regarding the scholarship. As soon as the contest is complete publication of the book will begin.

Contest rules

- Poetry can be written in any poetic style and on any subject.
- A poem in its entirety must be an original work by the person entering the contest. (*Plagiarism is a serious offense with serious consequences.*)
- Only one poem per person is allowed.
- All poems must be written in English.
- Contest entries must not exceed one page (size 12 font single spaced) Any submission that exceeds these limits will be automatically disqualified.
- Do not double-space.
- Do not use "texting" lingo. Properly spell out all words and numbers.
- Poems containing language that is vulgar, offensive, or inappropriate will not be accepted.
- To ensure proper lineation, please use the "Enter" key to start a new line, indicating all intentional line breaks.
- Do not include your name or any other information at the end of your poem.

All Poems submitted to: childrenoftheocean@humansforthefuture.org

Humans for the Future is a dedicated, Rhode Island based nonprofit, that works toward preserving our future through conservation and education efforts. Humans for the Future works on multiple matters that threaten the future of our flourishing communities. Humans for the Future organizes coastal cleanups and fundraisers. At our clean-ups our goal is to make each one extremely environmentally friendly. We do this by using 5-gallon buckets instead of bags, gardening gloves instead of latex gloves and we recycle as much as possible. To help improve education throughout Rhode Island, Humans for the Future is publishing a poem book with poems from local school students. The funds raised from this book will be used to improve public education and improve our beach clean-up programs. Humans for the Future will continue to adapt and be innovative to discover solutions to make the future better and brighter.

Ocean Pollution Facts

- Plastics are the most common form of trash found in the ocean today. Plastic in the ocean is extremely harmful to the environment, as it does not degrade easily and is often mistaken as food by marine animals.
- According to a study done by the University of Georgia, 18 billion pounds of plastic trash winds up in our oceans each year.
- The 5 most common items found in coastal cleanups around the world are all single-use plastics. They are: plastic, cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps, and plastic straws and drink stirrers.
- More than 50 percent of sea turtles have consumed plastic.
- Ocean pollution kills more than one million seabirds each year.
- The plastic debris that reaches the ocean is capable of absorbing the toxic chemicals polluting the water. The sea life that consumes the plastic is then poisoned. Because plastic never completely disappears and breaks down into smaller pieces, it is often seen as food to marine life.

The Solution

In 2018, Humans for the Future removed hundreds of pounds of trash from our coastline through our beach clean programs. We documented many different types of debris that polluted our beaches and found cigarette butts were the most abundant. For the 2019 beach season, Humans for the Future donated new cigarette receptacles and proper designated smoking area signs to our local beaches. We plan to expand our beach clean-up program, taking on more polluted areas along Rhode Island's Coastline.

Please Click! Check out our social media. Don't forget to like and follow!



POETRY CONTEST "CHILDREN OF THE OCEAN"
CONSENT TO PUBLICATION AND RELEASE OF RIGHTS

I, (Student Name), _____ submit my poem to the **Children of the Ocean** poetry contest for and in return for a chance to win a scholarship and to be published in a book of poems by Rhode Island students grades one through twelve. At least one poem will be chosen from each grade. By submitting to my poem to said contest, I do hereby forever assign, transfer and grant **Humans for the Future**, a nonprofit corporation formed in Rhode Island with its principal place of business located at 4 Nest Drive Westerly, RI 02891, any and all my rights, of every kind and character, relating to my poem. I expressly consent to the commercial or non-commercial publication of said Poem.

Further, I understand that by execution of this agreement, I am relinquishing all my rights to said Poem and to any future compensation for publication, use or sell of same. I also understand that Humans for the Future may treat said poem as sole owner, including the right to resell same and to publish same in any medium, including, but not limited to, reproduction of same, books, magazines, newspapers, E-Mail and the Internet or World Wide Web. I understand and agree that by execution hereof, I lose any and all rights to duplicate, give or sell such Poem to any other person. The transfer to Humans for the Future includes my right, if any, to copyright such poems to enjoy all rights provided to copyright holders or any commercial purpose throughout the world and in perpetuity. This agreement shall be governed and interpreted by the laws of the State of Rhode Island. This Agreement expresses the complete understanding of the parties.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Parent/Guardian Consent

I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above. I have read and understand this agreement. I have the legal right to consent to the terms and conditions of this release for the minor named above and do so.

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

