



2017 Valentine's Day Poetry Winners

For Kids 3rd through 8th Grade

3rd – 4th Grade Winner

- **Ava Moorehead**
- 4th Grade, Home Schooled

A Rose That Once Was

I once had a rose. So
colorful and bright.

But now it's dull and dry.

I once had a rose so fragrant
and merry.

But now it's vague and timid.

I once had a rose with sharp
thorns that could prick.

But now it's brittle and dry.

I once had a rose with
splendor and beauty.
But now I have memories
about a summer long ago.

Why the judges awarded the prize to Ava's poem:

- She most effectively uses line and stanza breaks, which helps her piece to sound the most like a poem and not like prose.
- Ava evokes multiple senses with her imagery.
- Her poem's ending is unexpected and somewhat ambiguous. This gives some personality to the speaker, and it leaves the reader with something to ponder.

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7th – 8th Grade Winner

- **Terrence Hoard**
- Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy

No Kiss Good Night

Must another child grow up
without a dad to teach him stuff;
how to shave without cutting,
tie a tie for prom and church,
shoot a basketball in proper form
with arch and follow-through,
to take his first girlfriend
on a date and know how
to treat her, talk to her,
open doors, give her a rose,
or kiss good night?

I can't shoot hoops,
shave without cutting myself,
can't talk a girl into a date,
no roses or kisses good night.
The answer is in the dad
on the opposite side of the door.

Why the judges awarded the prize to Terrance's poem:

- He goes beyond rose imagery to deliver real emotional impact.
- He touches on a universal theme that resonates with readers.
- His poem was carefully structured to build momentum and move beyond a rhetorical question to the personal. While we expect the ending to say that Dad is not around, Terrence found a creative way to say that.