

MSLEXIA POETRY COMPETITION 2023

*'The female born again with little changed
except she has no mouth and may not eat,
except she has this urge to climb, this light
she must raise and twist...'*

from 'Love poem, lampyridae (glow worms)', by Fiona Benson



Mslexia Publications Limited
PO Box 656
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE99 1PZ

mslexia.co.uk/competitions
competitions@mslexia.co.uk
+44 (0)191 204 8860

mslexia

SINGLE POEM

For single poems of any length.

1st Prize: £2,000

2nd Prize: £500

3rd Prize: £250

Unpublished Poet Prize: £250

The four winners plus 16 additional finalists will be published in *Msllexia* magazine.

Entry fee: £10 for up to three poems.

JUDGE

FIONA BENSON

POETRY PAMPHLET

For collections of up to 20 poems

1st Prize: £250, plus publication of the pamphlet by Bloodaxe Books

Entry fee: £20

JUDGE

IMTIAZ DHARKER
for Bloodaxe Books

CLOSING DATE FOR BOTH
COMPETITIONS: 4 DECEMBER 2023

ALL ENTRIES

▮ Type each poem, single-spaced, on A4 pages. If a poem is longer than one page, please number the pages. Write the title on the same sheet as the poem. This applies to single poem entries as well as to poems that are part of pamphlet entries.

▮ Your entry will be judged anonymously, so do not put your name on the page with your poem/s.

▮ No alterations may be made to an entry once it has been submitted.

▮ Winners will be contacted in February 2024 and all winning poems will be published in the Mar/Apr/May 2024 issue of *Msllexia* magazine.

▮ Copyright of each poem remains with the author, but *Msllexia* and Bloodaxe Books have the unrestricted right to publish the winning poems or pamphlet in their magazine and on their website, plus unrestricted rights to use the winning poems and any related material for PR purposes.

SINGLE POEM ENTRIES

▮ Poems may be in any style, of any length, on any subject. Sequences of differently-titled poems must be entered as separate poems. A poem that is structured in several parts may be entered as one poem.

▮ You may enter any number of poems, but may only win one prize in the single poem competition. This is to allow the maximum number of entrants to receive recognition.

▮ Entrants who have not had poetry published (see definition under 'Eligibility') are also invited to enter the Unpublished Poet Prize by ticking the 'Unpublished' option on the online or postal entry form.

▮ You may enter any poem from a pamphlet entry into our competition for single poems, provided it fulfils the entry requirements. These are separate competitions, so you would need to make a separate entry. Success in one competition will not affect your chance of success in the other competition.

PRIZE TERMS

▮ 1st Prize: £2,000.

▮ 2nd Prize, £500; 3rd Prize, £250; Unpublished Poet Prize, £250. 16 additional finalists win £25 each.

▮ The Unpublished Poet Prize may be awarded in addition to a finalist prize, but not in addition to a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize.

POETRY PAMPHLET ENTRIES

▮ The Pamphlet Competition is separate from the Single Poem Competition and is for short collections of up to 24 pages of up to 20 poems.

▮ Pamphlet entries may contain poems of any length or style, providing each page contains no more than 40 lines of poetry, and there are no more than 24 pages of poetry in total.

▮ Poems must be typed, single-spaced, on A4 pages and in a single document.

▮ Poems submitted should not have been published previously as part of a pamphlet or full collection, but poems that have been published in magazines, anthologies, blogs and other media are

eligible for inclusion.

▮ As mentioned above, you may enter any poem from your pamphlet into our competition for single poems, provided it fulfils the entry requirements. These are separate competitions, so you would need to make a separate entry. Success in one competition will not affect your chance of success in the other competition.

PRIZE TERMS

▮ The prize is £250 plus publication by Bloodaxe Books.

▮ The winning poet will be offered Bloodaxe Books' standard publishing agreement in which copyright for the poems remains with the author, but Bloodaxe reserves the right to publish the work in its entirety or in part in the UK, Ireland, and the rest of the world for three years following the publication of the pamphlet. All rights will revert to the author at the end of this time.

ELIGIBILITY

▮ Poems should be in English (or English dialect).

▮ Poems should not be a translation of another author's work.

▮ Poems entered for the Single Poem Competition must not have been previously published or accepted for publication in print or online by a third party, or included in self-published works that are commercially available and have sales of over 300 copies.

▮ Simultaneous submissions are allowed, of individual poems or pamphlet collections, provided the poet withdraws their work from consideration in other competitions immediately upon notification of its placement in the *Msllexia* competition.

▮ We will accept entries from women of any nationality from any country.

▮ You do not have to subscribe to *Msllexia* to be eligible, but you do have to self-identify as a woman.

HOW TO ENTER

▮ You may enter online at www.msllexia.co.uk/competitions, or send your entry by post. If entering online, there are full instructions on the website.

▮ If entering by post, please print out and complete the submission form on our website (www.msllexia.co.uk/competitions), mark your envelope 'Msllexia Poetry Competition' and send it to: Msllexia Publications Ltd, PO Box 656, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1PZ.

▮ If entering by post, please pay by cheque (payable to Msllexia Publications Ltd.) or by debit/credit card (phone +44 (0)191 204 8860 with your details).

▮ Single Poem Competition: The entry fee of £10 allows you to enter up to three poems. You may enter as many times as you like, provided each set of poems is accompanied by the £10 entry fee.

▮ Poetry Pamphlet Competition: The £20 entry fee allows you to enter one pamphlet. You may enter as many times as you like, provided each collection is accompanied by the £20 entry fee.

DEADLINE:

23.59 GMT, 4 DECEMBER 2023