

What we're looking for:

Our focus is on stories about today's real working West. We look for poems that say something original about being a cowboy, ranching, or rural life.

We seek well-written poems with strong, developed stories with themes that are uniquely Western.

We encourage poems inspired by personal experiences.

Above all, we seek quality.

We look for works that go beyond platitudes, seeking those that say something new, or say something in a new way.

We are not looking for idealized "Old West" poems; poems inspired by a "Hollywood" view of the West; worn jokes turned into poems; or for patriotic, religious or romantic poems that do not focus on being a cowboy, ranching, and rural life.

Works should be suitable for our wide audience, which includes young readers. Submissions may have been published previously.

All are welcome to submit poetry. We respond to all submissions; we do not have the resources to offer critiques. Our editorial decisions are final.

Accepted poems are posted.

These are the essential guidelines:

Works must be submitted by email (Adobe PDF and Word attachments are ok).

Poems submitted must be your *original* work.

Send just one poem.

We generally look for poems written in the traditional cowboy poetry style, with particularly strong rhyme and meter, that tell well-developed stories of being a cowboy, ranching, and rural life. We do consider other forms.

We're particularly interested in works that reflect how people live and work today in the *real* working West.

All submissions are judged for acceptance.

Send *one* poem to: **poetry@tombstone.org**

Please:

Include your poem's title in the subject line.

Do not type in all CAPS.

Include your name with your poem.

Once you hear back about whether your submission is accepted, your work will be posted at Tombstone Online Cowboy Poetry. Our editorial decisions are final. We do not have the resources to offer critiques.

If you'd like to submit a poem but don't want to enter the competition, just let us know when you make your submission. Please follow the same guidelines. All works—those in the competition and those that are not—are held to the same standards and are judged for acceptance.