



"The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn like fabulous yellow roman candles."

- Jack Kerouac, LHS Class of 1939

Lowell High School Kerouac Poetry & Short Prose Slam October 10, 2025

Jack Kerouac was born in Lowell in 1922 and graduated from Lowell High School in 1939. He started writing at age 11, creating neighborhood newspapers and sports reports. He continued to write throughout his life, leaving a legacy of over 30 written works, including poetry, journals and novels. Kerouac never wavered from his belief that “**the greatest satisfaction in life is writing**”. Today, he is considered to be among the most influential writers of the 20th century, guiding the world to a new way of thinking-- that life and experience are the most beautiful and poetic “art” from which to draw inspiration.

Contest Details:

- Participants must submit 2 pieces of original work (poems or short prose – 3 minute reading per piece MAXIMUM)
- Work must be original. **Students may not use AI to generate their entries.**
- Share your document with both Mrs. Keefe (skeefe) and your ELA teacher through Google Drive and include in the upper left hand corner: Your name, Your ID#, Your advisory room, Your YOG, and Your English teacher's name. (See next page for sample.)
- The deadline for submission is Thursday, October 2nd. This is a firm deadline.
- Be prepared to present your work before a panel of judges and an audience of LHS students on 10/10. The contest general runs Periods 1-4.
- All participants may invite up to five friends to attend the contest. Guests must complete and submit field trip forms by the end of the school day on Wednesday, October 8.
- The event is structured as a slam - participants are scored by a group of audience members. There are two rounds of readings. The first round will decide the **Top Ten Participants**. The second round will decide the **Top Three Winners**, after which the prizes will be awarded.

FIRST PLACE: \$250.00

SECOND PLACE: \$150.00

THIRD PLACE: \$100.00

- You must be present on the day of the contest to participate, and must stay through to the end, even if you do not advance to the final round.
- Please be aware that the contest is filmed and students' work is shared with the LHS community after the contest.
- Please contact Mrs. Keefe (skeefe@lowell.k12.ma.us) or your ELA teacher if you have questions.

Check out the work of a couple of past winners:

Mablean Ntoro: [Caged Birds Don't Sing](#)

Geiko Bio: [Darkness](#)

Set up your submission as follows:

Your Full Name

Your ID#

Your Advisory Room

Your Year of Graduation

Your English Teacher's Name

Poem/Prose #1 (Title and Text)

Poem/Prose #2 (Title and Text)

(Put both pieces in ONE document - in the order that you will present them.)

Once you have submitted your work to Mrs. Keefe by sharing it through Google Docs, you will be provided with a permission slip for the contest and five additional slips to give to your friends. **Your guests must return their completed permission slips by Tuesday, October 7.**

Questions? Contact:

Mrs. Keefe

skeefe@lowell.k12.ma.us