



Riley Festival

20 W. South Street, Greenfield, IN 46140

September 2022

Dear Fourth Grade Teachers in Hancock County:

The Riley Festival is the largest four-day festival in the state of Indiana and it is named in honor of the Hoosier poet who was born and raised in Greenfield, James Whitcomb Riley. For the first time, the festival is hosting a poetry contest this year geared at fourth grade students. We selected fourth graders because of the emphasis on teaching Indiana history in this grade. We hope that you will encourage your students to write a poem and enter it into the contest. The poem writing could be done as a class exercise, optional exercise, extra credit, take home option, etc. – whatever you think works best should you choose to allow your students to participate.

Please find included with the contest materials:

- **A two-side handout in PDF form for the 4th grade students.** On one side, it has information about James Whitcomb Riley and on the reverse side, it has the contest entry form where students can write their poem. The poem can be handwritten or written on a computer, but it should be submitted on the entry form.
- **A copy of the poem, *Little Orphant Annie*.** We would suggest you read this poem to the students. Little Orphant Annie is the theme for the 2022 Riley Festival.

Once you've gathered all of your students' poems written or printed on the entry forms, scan them (they can be scanned in a batch) into PDF form and email them to JWRileyPoetryContest@gmail.com no later than **Monday, October 3**. Our plan is to display the poems in the front windows of the H.J. Ricks Centre for the Arts in downtown Greenfield and in the Centre lobby during the festival (October 6-9). One poetry winner will be selected and will receive a ribbon, a cash prize and a book of James' Whitcomb Riley poetry. We will deliver these items to you at the school if your student is the winner. All poetry participants will receive a participation ribbon that we will mail to you at the school and they can see their poem on display at the festival!

Forms and materials will also be available on the festival website at jwrileyfestival.com. Questions can be directed to Rhonda Cook at the email address above or (317) 694-1451.

THANK YOU!