A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered to the last poet standing in a contest sponsored by Rainbow Poets.

Poems of 21 lines or fewer on any subject and in any style will be judged by the contest director Michael Thomas.

"We love encouraging youth in the arts," he said. "We trust this contest will result in poetic surprises."

The contest is free to enter and open to poets of any age. Fifty prizes totalling more than \$5,000 will be awarded.

Entries must be received by Sept. 30, and may be submitted by mail to Free Poetry Contest, 7308 Heritage Dr., Mount Vernon, IN 47620 or at www.rainbowpoets.com

Those sending entries should include their name and address on the same page as the poem. For a winner's list please enclose a stamped return envelope.