**Creative Writing Contest**

**The Social Media Mask**

In today's world, social media is a stage where everyone wears a mask, presenting their best selves to an audience of friends, followers, and strangers. But what happens when the mask slips?

Write a piece of creative writing—either a poem, a short story, or a piece of creative non-fiction—exploring the theme of social media and the differences between our online personas and our real lives. Consider these questions as you write:

* What does the mask look like for different people?
* Why do we feel the need to wear these masks?
* How do these online personas affect our relationships, self-esteem, and sense of reality?
* What happens when someone decides to reveal their true self online, or when someone discovers the truth behind another's mask?

**Genre Guidelines:**

1. **Poem**: Capture the essence of the duality between online personas and real life. Use imagery and metaphor to explore the masks we wear on social media.
2. **Short Story**: Create a narrative about a character who experiences a significant event that causes them to reflect on or reveal the disparity between their online and offline selves. Consider building tension around a pivotal moment of truth.
3. **Creative Non-Fiction**: Reflect on your own experiences or observations of social media. Share a personal story or an analysis of how social media impacts the way we see ourselves and others.