

Balisage Bard 2015 Rules

In past conferences, we played Markup Bingo, answering markup-related questions to mark squares. We played Balisage Bluff, fooling each other with markup-related true/false stories. It is time for a new game! We welcome all Balisager poets to Balisage Bard. Now is your chance to exercise your creative skills in limericks, sonnets, haiku, ballads, blank verse, or other poetic forms. Parodies welcome. Subject matter must have at least a slim connection to the conference. Here are the rules:

*Balisage will whisper
Through the nodes of the tree:
“Here am I, your special conference!
Come to me, come to me!”*

*Your own special tags,
Your own schema dreams,
Parse into node sets
And merge in the streams.*

1. The game will be played from 1:15 to 2:00 on Thursday afternoon.
2. Poems must be original and submitter (bard) must agree, if requested, to allow an entry to be displayed or published at Balisage 2016.
3. Time limit for reading a poem is two minutes.
4. Bards will be limited to one poem each unless there is time for more at the end of the session.
5. To participate, register before Thursday electronically by sending email to bard@txstruct.com or in person on the sign-up sheet at the conference registration desk. As many poems as time permits will be read. If there is time remaining after preregistered poems have been heard, additional volunteers will be taken. Poems will be read in the order the bards register, with reasonable adjustments for temporary absences.
6. Poems emailed to bard@txstruct.com by 10AM the morning of the game will be displayed during the reading so the audience doesn't have to catch every word as a poem is read.
7. Poems will be awarded points as described below. Bards will keep track of their own points and submit a count on paper score sheets at the Balisage registration desk by 5:30PM Thursday or by emailing an electronic copy to bard@txstruct.com by 10:00PM that evening. Printed score sheets will be available at the conference and a machine-readable version can be downloaded from <http://balisage.net/2015/BardScore.xlsx>.
8. The winner (poem with the most points) will be announced on Friday. The author's prize is the right to use the title Balisage 2015 Poet Laureate and have a featured poster at Balisage 2016.

*A young lady who fell to perdition
Insisted it wasn't coition.
“The problem,” she stormed,
“Was a not-well-formed
Document type definition.”*

—Norm Walsh

*A worthy initial submission!
As part of the game definition
We can use it, I'm sure,
In the conference brochure,
Because Norm has given permission.*

The winning poem will be the one that earns the most points in the following categories:

Points	Item
10	Incorporating a submitted poem into a Balisage 2015 presentation (not just reading it, using it as part of the information content of the talk).
5	For a poem that tells a true/false story.
5	For a poem in a language other than English.
5	For a poem in which at least 10% of the “words” are markup-related acronyms.
2	For the first reference to each Balisage 2015 paper of which the bard is not listed as an author.
1	For the first occurrence of each qualifying term on the list below. Any form of a term can be used, for example, “valid”, “validate”, “validates”, “validating”, “validation”, etc. all count as an occurrence of “validation”.
1	For each rhyme made with a qualifying term.
10	For an acrostic.
3	For iambic pentameter.
4	For anapestic tetrameter.
15	For a double dactyl.
5	For a limerick.
5	For haiku.
10	For a sonnet.
10	For doggerel.
5	For an ode.
1–5	Assuming noise level can be measured, 5 points for the poem that receives the loudest audience reaction, 4 for the next, down to 1 for fifth place.

*I can't recommend double dactyl.
The results will be unsatisfactyl.
Try limerick meter.
It's simpler, neater,
And sounds much more matter-of-factyl.*

Qualifying terms are:

Name of any markup-related tool or providing organization.			
Name or affiliation of an author of a Balisage 2015 paper, member of the Balisage 2015 conference committee, or conference sponsor.			
API	FO	pipeline	validation
attribute	ID	processing instruction	well formed
Balisage	IDREF	query	whitespace
comment	Infoset	RelaxNG	XDM
conformance	interchange	reuse	Xinclude
CSS	ISO	schema	XML
DITA	JSON	Schematron	XPath
document type	localization	semantics	Xproc
DOM	markup	SGML	XQuery
DTD	MathML	standard	XSD
element	metadata	stylesheet	XSL
encoding	namespace	syntax	XSLT
entity	node	tag	
ePub	overlap	TEI	
ESIS	parse	transformation	

*The poets back in the Cretaceous
Wrote odes about being rapacious,
For though pterodactyls
Could write double dactyls,
The rhyme scheme was just too outrageous.*