Poetry slams in the UAE

Poetry slams are the latest trend in the world of performing and literary arts. They are competitions in which different artists write and read their own poems to an audience, and a group of judges gives scores on their performance. It all began in Chicago in 1984 with the aim of making poetry something interesting not just for artists and academics but also for the general public. Today there are poetry slam competitions across the globe. Some are held specifically to highlight current events related to political, social, environmental and many other issues. Poetry slams came to the UAE in 2014, specifically to Dubai. A Lebanese American poet, Zeina Hashem Beck, hosted the first event in a café. She formed a group called 'Punch Poetry' that has since then grown in numbers to include members from around the world. Members participating in slams come from different backgrounds, some are graduates of art programmes and some are amateurs passionate about poetry. There are participants as young as 14 years old. 'Punch Poetry' was designed in a way to support poets and give them feedback on their work in a safe environment.

Today, poetry slams are a part of large-scale festivals in the UAE, such as SIKKA, which is held at the Fahidi district as well as the Annual Literature Festival. Members have talked about the influence living in the UAE had on their writing. Many Westerners mentioned their lives in the UAE and Emirati culture in their poems. Living in an Arab country also influenced the symbols they started using in their verses. Some Emiratis discussed the role traditional poetry, such as the Nabati, had in their work. They also discussed how it is now easier to make rhymes because of their exposure to so many poets and poetry. Spoken poetry in a city like Dubai is definitely getting more people interested in the written form. People in the performing arts industry in the UAE are hoping that poetry slams continue to grow in popularity to make future generations more appreciative of the art of words.

Read the text and then note the topics that are mentioned from the list below.

1 origin of poetry slams

2 the founder of poetry slams

3 aim of poetry slams

4 example verses from a poetry slams

5 origin of poetry slams in the UAE

6 the person who started poetry slams in the UAE

7 places where poetry slams take place in the UAE

8 the government's initiative towards poetry