



BIG COUNTRY WRITERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ABILENE WRITERS GUILD—OCTOBER 2018

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October is a Punny Month

No, I didn't mean to say October was a funny month. I actually meant punny. Most lexophiles (lovers of words) enjoy puns. Have you ever known a person who could spit out puns on the spur of the moment? I have. Often I would find myself envious that he or she was so quick in producing them. Other times I might want to stuff a sock in their mouth to get them to cease and desist, but you probably NEVER felt that way about anyone's puns, right?

Since our annual contest is in full swing, I thought I would share a few puns with all of you. Perhaps they will give you a chuckle, or at the very least make you smile. Who knows? A clever pun just might jumpstart you right into a story or a poem. Remember, inspiration can come in very clever and sneaky ways. Ready? Here we go.

1. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
2. A will is a dead giveaway.
3. A backward poet writes inverse.
4. A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours and 'taint mine
5. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
6. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
7. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
8. A short fortune teller who escaped from prison would be: a small medium at large.
9. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
10. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
11. When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
12. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
13. (Love this one!): Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
14. Acupuncture: a jab well done.

15. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion (I like that one, too!).

I could find more, but you get the picture, and I truly hope these made you smile or laugh. Laughing is really good medicine.

As you know, the holidays are rushing toward us. I don't even want to know how many more shopping days there are until Christmas. How about you? Not enough is my thought, especially because I feel so very out of sync lately. Packing, cancer, surgeries, packing, moving, unpacking, unpacking, did I say unpacking? Actually, I suppose I can take as long as I want to completely unpack. No one is really rushing me other than myself.

You, on the other hand, may NOT take as long as you want to begin writing entries for our annual contest, because it is well underway. I hope you are thinking and writing already, and if not, then by all means go ahead and get busy. I want my mailbox filled with your entries---and I will try to find a place to put them in my small house! That was not punny at all, was it?

Sharon Ellison

AWG President

Fly high, Bill Masters!

AWG's Board and members are saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Masters---pilot, instructor, great guy and husband of long-time Guild member and former Board member, Nancy Robinson Masters.

We offer our sincerest condolences to Nancy and her extended family.

Nancy requests that, in honor and in memory of Bill, we continue the work of Abilene Writers Guild. We do so with sad hearts.

BRAGS AND SAGS

David Dodge received his first order of *Daniel Fleming* books. He will participate in Abilene's Authors Showcase at the South Branch of the Abilene Public Library, Oct 20, 2018, 2-4 pm.

Daina Jurika-Owen is sagging over health issues that may or may not go away. However, her book, *Ten Cultures, Twenty Lives*, will be featured October 20 as part of Book Fest, and she is working on a new book project, writing a little every day.

Jo Cox finally got back to writing her new book, *Creator's Parables*. "Building a house really takes the words out of my head!"

WHAT AWG READS

Barbara Loyd: *The First Four Years* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. "This was her final book, published after her death by daughter Rose. It shows the joys and hard times of farm life on the frontier by Laura and her husband nicknamed Manly."

Penny Klostermann: many picture book biographies. Her favorite is *Spring After Spring: How Rachel Carson Inspired the Environmental Movement* by Stephanie Ross Sisson.

Carla Kerr: *The Tennis Partner* by Abraham Verghese. "This was a book club selection, and I struggled through it. Interesting, but too much description on how to play tennis got in the way of the story and I'm not a big tennis fan." Also, *The President is Missing* by James Patterson and Bill Clinton.

Daina Jurika-Owen: *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. "So impressive and emotional, wow! I am taking a break from reading for a few days, just to be ready to read something else. Beside all other important issues, I loved how the author shows that people who are poor are in no way lesser than those who have that big money, — they love and care for their children, and are often even more noble and caring."

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Ron Rosseau was born in Washington state, and grew up working in the apple orchards and apple-packing plants. He got his first job in radio as a high school senior after winning a Veterans of Foreign Wars speech contest and recording his speech for broadcast at the request of the program director.

He came to Abilene to pursue a degree in Mass Communication from ACU and worked as disc-jockey and news reporter at KWKC. Ron began his career with KTAB-TV in March of 1981 as a news reporter, and covered his own college graduation. He also works at KGNZ as a radio announcer, now having more than 40 years of experience in radio and television.

In June of 1981, Ron married Debi (Adams). They have three grown children, Adam, Hailey and Colton, who were born in three consecutive presidential election years. He is a committed Christian, a student of the Bible, enjoys leading Sunday School class, and playing racquetball.

AUTHORS SHOWCASE

Celebrate your fellow writers in their newest publication at the South Branch of the Abilene Public Library, Oct 20, 2018, 2-4 pm.

While you are there, pick up a free copy of "The Great American Read" list. The Library has the books in print and audio.

Change To Meeting

Please enter
Rose Park Senior Center
through the front door, not the
back/side door near the room.

This is a security issue.

Hearts for the Arts

*Abilene Writers Guild's
volunteer of the year
is our very own president.
Congratulations*

!!! Sharon Ellison !!!

Thank you for the years of service!

Texas Book Festival

In Austin, TX

October 27-28, 2018

https://www.texasbookfestival.org/attend_festival/

Our Life Members:

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters, Laura Thaxton,
Dr. Clyde Morgan, Alice Greenwood,
Keith Thomason*

Members gain the status by gift from the membership as a whole, by paying a one time fee of \$600, by receiving the honor as a gift from another, or by reaching the age of 90 while a member of AWG.

Our Officers:

President: Sharon Ellison	(2020)
Executive VP: David Dodge	(2019)
Program VP: Kay Talley	(2020)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus	(2020)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan	(2019)
Board member: Suanna Davis	(2019)
Board member: Linda Gordon	(2019)
Board member: Coy Roper	(2020)
Board member: Mary Ann Smith	(2020)
Alt. Board member: Marry Berry	(2020)
Newsletter editor: Jo Cox	
Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon	

Writing Contests

Writer's Digest

Short Short Story

Deadline: Nov 15, 2018

<http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/short-short-story-competition>

Reedsy

Better Than Starbucks—Sonnet

Deadline: December 1, 2018

<https://blog.reedsy.com/writing-contests/>

The Writing District

Short Story

Deadline: last day of every month

<https://thewritingdistrict.com/pages/the-writing-district-contest>

Sweek

Flash Fiction

Deadline: Monthly

<https://blog.sweek.com/sweek-flash-fiction-competition-2018/>

Writers of the Future

SciFi & Fantasy

Deadline: December 31, 2018

<https://www.writersofthefuture.com/enter-writer-contest/>

Gifts for CPS Kids

AWG collects money and donations for CPS, Sept-Nov. Recommended items are journals/diaries, pen-pencils, young adult fiction and non-fiction, and games and puzzles. Let's challenge young minds to start on a lifelong journey of writing.

Donations and/or money can be given or mailed to Gail McMillan, 419 Meadow Lane, Abilene, TX 79602. For more information call 325 529-3885.

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD'S ANNUAL CONTEST 2018 -2019

General Information: Open to any person age 15 or older. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2018. Publication on the Internet is publication. The work must not have earned a cash award in any previous AWG Annual Contest. However, Honorable Mentions from past contests may be re-entered. Also, AWG monthly members-only-contest entries are eligible. Use **ONLY** font size 12 in Times New Roman or Arial. Type only on one side of each page.

Entries must be **postmarked** between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2018. Entries posted earlier or later than those dates will **NOT** be accepted and will not be judged, nor will fees be refunded. If fewer than 5 entries are received in a category, that category may not be judged; or, if judged, only first place may be awarded.

Please see the **list of categories, descriptions, maximum lengths and entry fees**. The title of your work does **not** count toward your final word count.

Cover Sheet for all categories: Each entry must have a separate cover sheet.

Upper left corner: your name, complete address, telephone # and email address.

Upper right corner: category and number of words or lines. Space down to center of Cover Sheet and center the title.

YOUR NAME DOES NOT GO ON ANY OTHER PAGE.

CATEGORIES 3-8: Center the title at the top of the first page only. Double-space and begin manuscript. Double-space all pages. **All other pages:** type title of the manuscript and page number in upper right corner. No author's name on these pages!

POETRY: Center the title at the top of the first page. Double-space down and begin . May be single or double-spaced. **Category 1 and 2:** list total number of lines in upper right corner.

Category 9 only: include the number of words.

Other information: Attach payment and cover sheet to each entry with a paper clip. **Do NOT staple anything!** If you want your entry/entries returned with judges' comments, please provide us a large enough SASE with adequate postage. Verify at local post office. Entries without large enough return SASEs will be destroyed after April 30, 2019.

Reminder: Entries which do not meet guidelines will be disqualified and entry fees will not be refunded. **Decisions of the judges are final.** Prizes will be presented at a time and place to be decided soon, but no later than March 30, 2019. Please check our website and/or Newsletter for details.

Mail entries to the address on the next page or bring them to AWG's October or November meeting if you are in our area. We would love to meet you!



	Cat # 3-7	Cat # 1-2, 8-9
First Place	\$100	\$70
Second Place	\$65	\$45
Third Place	\$35	\$25

Cat #	Category	Description (Do <u>not</u> include Title in Word Count)	Max # Lines/Words	Fee Per Entry
1	Poetry, Rhymed	Rhymed – in any style	50 lines	\$ 7
2	Poetry, Unrhymed	Unrhymed – in any style, stanzas or free verse	50 lines	\$ 7
3	Children’s Stories For readers ages 3-8	Can be for pre-school or elementary age readers, but do not have to include both age groups.	750 words	\$10
4	Articles of General Interest—Non personal general information	Subjects: history, people, events, or places (suitable for newspapers, magazines, or journals)	1200 words	\$10
5	Inspiration	May be prose or drama. Does not have to be religious in nature	1200 words	\$10
6	Memoir/Nostalgia	Writing that takes the writer and reader back to a former time	1200 words	\$10
7	Fiction for Adults	Short Stories written for adults, teens, and older	1200 words	\$10
8	Flash Fiction	Must include these 5 words: Adjust, Pretentious, Flabbergasted, Startled, Confirmation	100 words	\$ 7
9	Flash Poetry	Must include these 5 words: Gain, Magenta, Reef, Overwhelmed, Trust	25 words	\$ 7

Mail entries to the address below or bring them to AWGs October or November meeting if you are in our area. We would love to meet you!

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ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2018-2019 CONTEST ENTRY FORM <http://www.abilenewritersguild.org/>

MAIL TO: Abilene Writers Guild

c/o S. Ellison

862 Grand Ave.

Abilene, Texas 79605

Email Inquiries to:

Or phone

(325) 665-5195

TrLiSo3@hotmail.com

Bonus

If you are not an AWG member your entry entitles you to free AWG newsletters from January through May 2019

Your Email Address: _____

Your Name _____

Your Postal Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of entries in Categories 3-7 = _____ x \$10 each = \$ _____

Number of entries in Categories 1-2, 8-9 = _____ x \$7 each = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Please Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

Fourth Thursday Together
October 25 – 7:00 p.m.

Ron Rosseau

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

P.O. Box 2562
Abilene TX 79604