



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

AUGUST 2021

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD.ORG KTALLEY1963@GMAIL.COM

Practice, Practice, Practice

Anticipation of the August meeting and Nancy Robinson Master's mini-workshop, "Hot Ten Writing Tips" has led me to reflect on the process of writing and to ponder what it means to be a writer. Most definitions concur that a writer is someone who writes; an individual who creates with words. Some stipulate that to be called "a writer" one must be published and have received compensation, but in my opinion someone who is dedicated and who writes regularly is, in fact, a writer.

We are not born with the ability to write; it is a skill that must be learned. We must acquire words and learn to use them to express ourselves. We must gain the rudiments of forming letters and the rules for stringing letters together to form words and words to form sentences and sentences to form paragraphs. Through exposure to literature we see how others have used the language to tell stories or relay information. Then we are ready to put thoughts and ideas on paper in order to express ourselves and to communicate to others. As with any skill, becoming a writer takes hours and hours of practice. Time alone, however, does not guarantee desired results. Writers need mindful, deliberate practice in order to improve. Beyond the mastery of basic tools of grammar, spelling, and sentence structure, writers should be keen observers of life and must hone the ability to think clearly and logically so that others can follow their thinking. All people do not learn in the same

way, so writers must be aware of their individual learning styles and choose activities that lead to growth. Practice is private and perpetual. It consists of deepening and sharpening a skill set, and may involve keeping a journal, scribbling ideas, writing notes, doing writing exercises, experimenting, and learning new things about language and words.

Membership in AWG affords opportunities for a wide variety of writing practice. For several months each year we are challenged through our Members Only Contest to try our hands at a specific type of writing. Programs throughout the year provide valuable information that can stimulate practice. This month Nancy Robinson Masters, prolific published author and popular educational consultant, will conduct a mini writing workshop at our regular meeting time. Her promised "hot tips" will undoubtedly provide inspiration and direction to enhance our performance as writers.

Whether you are a writer actively engaged in pursuing your craft or a person who dreams of becoming a published writer, you can grow and improve through deliberate mindful practice. Whatever your skill level, I predict that your pen will sizzle as you put into practice the "Hot Tips" waiting for you at our August meeting.

Mary Berry
AWG President

Our Life Members

*Stewart Caffey, Nancy Masters
Alice Greenwood, David Dodge*

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: Mary Berry (2022)
Executive VP: Darla McCloud (2023)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison (2022)
Secretary: Linda Gordon (2023)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2023)
Board Member: Chuck Weber (2022)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith (2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley (2022)
Alt. Board Member: Carolyn Dycus (2023)

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon

IT'S BEEN FUN

August Marks the End

Of

Monthly Members Only Contest

This gives us more time to prepare our entries for the

2021-2022 Annual Contest

which is open to anyone age 15 and over, officially opens **October 1.**



So grab a cup of coffee, whatever writing tools you use, and let your creativity flow.

Don't let this be your last

NEWSLETTER

Pay your Dues and keep up with what's happening.

Please mail a check today to:

Gail McMillan

419 Meadow Ln

Abilene, TX 79602

**"do something today
that brightens
your energy
and strengthens
your soul."**

WRITE



WHAT AWG READS

Mary Berry – I read Stuart Turton's *The Devil and the Dark Water*. My daughter sent it to me -I would never have selected it myself - but it was an entertaining read. It's a murder mystery complete with a cast of odd characters and a plot full of twists and turns. It takes place during the 17th century on a merchant ship.

I am in the process of re-reading James Michener's *Alaska*. The historical fiction epic chronicles the story of the 49th state from pre-history to modern times.

Hallie Wright – I just recently finished--and am about to start again--*How To Read Literature Like A Professor* by Foster, to prepare me for my Sr AP English class.

Marguerite Gray - I'm reading *Shadow* by Kara Swanson and *The Magic Portal: River Of Lights* by Melanie Dobson

Linda Gordon - I recently read *Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art* by James Nestor. It is a fascinating study to demonstrate that the way we breathe can negatively or positively affect all other parts of the body.

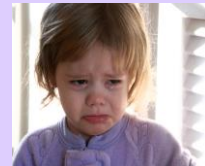
Carolyn Dycus – I just finished John Grisham's *Sooley*—couldn't put down this basketball-based heartbreaker! Also, another African nation-based novel, *His Only Wife* by Peace Addi Medie—another can't put down read!

Kay Talley - I am reading *Hold me Close* by our own Marguerite Gray.



BRAGS

& SAGS



Marguerite Gray - BRAG: Finished a short story *Designs of Destiny*. It will be published with my novel *Labor of Love*.

Linda Gordon – BRAG: I had a short story published in the latest issue of *Christian Woman* magazine.

Carolyn Dycus – SAG: realizing my BRAG about Apple's Microsoft Word "substitute" was premature, am still struggling to send compatible documents!

David Dodge- BRAG: I received some copies of my new book yesterday, and KTAB did a story for my 91st birthday. SAG: Surgeries coming up.

Kay Talley - SAG: My Kindle, which has about 80 books downloaded on it (I've had it a long time) is frozen and I am unable to finish *Hold Me Close*, until I find someone who can unfreeze it.

Tom Howard/Margaret Reid
POETRY CONTEST

2 Prizes - \$3000 each

Many other prizes

Deadline – September 30

[Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest - Winning Writers](#)

August 26, 2021, 7 pm

The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow

Come start your next creative chapter with us!

The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow residency program is open to writers of every genre, artists, and composers for short or long-term stays. Quiet, sequestered, inspirational – and affordable – our individual writing suites are designed to make your stay productive. European-style gourmet meals are served Monday through Friday in the WCDH dining room, providing writers the opportunity to share time with other resident writers from around the globe. Get away and write at Dairy Hollow!

[The Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow \(writerscolony.org\)](http://writerscolony.org)

Come Spend a Hot August Night

With Nancy Robinson

Nancy will share her “Hot Ten” Writing Tips learned as the author of more than 30 books published by major publishers as well as successfully self-publishing books that have sold more than 100,000 copies. Her 3,000-plus feature articles and stories have appeared in a variety of magazines and newspapers including online media outlets.

In addition to writing, Nancy is a consultant working with schools and businesses to help improve student writing scores and sharpen communication skills. She is a popular workshop presenter who uses her aviation experiences as a licensed pilot to help other writers stay on course as they move forward.

Come prepared to do some hot-and-heavy hands-on writing on a hot August night that will heat up your passion and pleasure as a writer. No, this is not going to be a program on writing for the romance markets—however, every author needs to be passionate in whatever genre they wish to write.

Nancy says, “I hope sharing these practical, proven ‘hot ten’ tips that have worked for me will ignite your fire for doing what you love and loving what you do”.



Abilene Writers Guild

Annual Contest

Accepting Entries

October 1 – November 30

Rules are posted on following page

ABILENE WRITER'S GUILD ANNUAL CONTEST 2021-2022

General Information:

AbileneWritersGuild.org

1. Open to any person age 15 or older.
2. Entries **must** be postmarked **between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2021!**
3. Categories with fewer than 5 entries are not eligible for prizes but may be critiqued if judges agree.
4. Categories, descriptions, maximum lengths, entry fees: page 2. Do **not count the title** in your word count.
5. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2021. 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 annual contests may be re-entered and **any** AWG monthly members-only-contest entry is eligible **if** it fits the category. Use font size 12; Times New Roman preferred. Type on one side of page.
6. **Each entry** must have a **separate cover sheet**. **Upper left corner**: your name, complete address, phone number and email address. **Upper right corner**: category and number of words or lines. *Space down to middle of page and center your title on the cover sheet.*

First page, Poetry and Flash Fiction entries, categories 1-4: **Upper right corner**: category and number of lines or words. Double space down and **Center the TITLE of your entry;** double space down again and begin. **Single space only!** **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON ANY PAGE OTHER THAN THE COVER SHEET!**

First page, Prose Categories 5-8: **DOUBLE-SPACE** these, with one-inch margins. **Upper right corner**: type category and number of words. **Do not count your title** in the number of words. Double space down, **center your title, double-space down again and begin manuscript.** On all following pages: type entry title and page number in upper right corner. **Author's name goes ONLY on the cover sheet.**

Mail Entries Only: **Staple your cover sheet to your entry.** Attach payment with a paper clip to your entry. **For multiple entries, be sure your check covers all entries and fill in the registration form or facsimile thereof.** If you want your entry/entries returned, please provide a SASE with **adequate postage**, otherwise your entry will be discarded on or after **May 31, 2022.** (Hint: 1 stamp per 5 pages in a #10 letter-size envelope.) Our judges, professionals in their fields, are asked to critique each entry, but we cannot guarantee same.

Reminder: As in the majority of writing contests, entries not meeting the guidelines will be disqualified and fees will not be refunded. Please follow the rules carefully. **Decisions of the judges are final.** Winners will be announced at our Annual Awards Workshop to be held in March 2022, and will be published on our Website by April 15, 2022. Prizes will be mailed to winners who cannot attend the Workshop. Please check our website and/or newsletter for location, date, time and other details of the March 2022 Workshop. Entries will be available for pickup immediately following the Workshop.

You may also bring entries to AWG's October and November meetings if you are in the area.

Prizes: Categories 1,2,3,4, Categories 5,6,7,8

First Place	\$ 70	\$100
Second Place	\$ 45	\$65
Third Place	\$ 25	\$35

_____ cut here _____ or copy this entry form _____

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2020-2021 CONTEST ENTRY FORM

MAIL TO: S. Ellison, 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605 Email questions to:
AWGWrite@gmail.com

Your email address: _____

Name: _____ Street Address: _____
_____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

of entries in Categories 1-4, = _____ X \$7.00 each ----- \$ _____

of entries in Categories 5-8 = _____ X \$10.00 each ----- \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

AWGs Annual Contest 2021-2022 Categories, Fees, Maximum: # Words/Lines Entry Fee

1. Poetry, Rhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
2. Poetry, Unrhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
The five prompt words must be used in Categories 3 and 4:*			
*3. Flash Poetry: <i>starlight, search, heart, obsequious, texture</i>		100 words	\$7
*4. Flash Fiction: <i>conglomerate, kerfuffle, stable, totality, crapulous, practicable</i>		100 words	\$7
5. Children's Stories	Preschool OR elementary age readers	750 words	\$10
6. Inspiration	Any form: prose/drama/religious	1200 words	\$10
7. Memoir/Nostalgia	Take reader back to a former time	1200 words	\$10
8. Fiction for Adults	Short story for adults/teens & older	1200 words	\$10

You may enter as many times as you wish in one or multiple categories!