



ABILENE WRITERS GUILD

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH



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The Wright Stuff

Whenever we get a bit of hopeful news about this pandemic, alarming signs and dire warnings soon follow telling us that we should not let down our guards. I think it is time for a little levity courtesy of comedian Steven Wright who once said, “If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.” (Sharon Ellison shared this with me. It made me laugh, and I wanted to pass it along to you.) Here are some more of his gems:

1. I’d kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
2. Borrow money from pessimists – they don’t expect it back.
3. Right now I’m having amnesia and déjà vu at the same time. I think I’ve forgotten this before.
4. I’m writing an unauthorized autobiography.
5. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel good.
6. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
7. All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.
8. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
9. I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.
10. OK, so what’s the speed of dark?
11. How do you tell when you’re out of invisible ink?
12. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
13. When everything is coming your way, you’re in the wrong lane.
14. Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
15. I’m writing a book. I’ve got the page numbers done.
16. I intend to live forever. So far, so good.
17. If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
18. My mechanic told me, “I couldn’t repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.”
19. Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don’t have film.
20. Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
21. If at first you don’t succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.
22. I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates.
23. If you want a rainbow, you have to put up with the rain.
24. A conclusion is the place where you get tired of thinking.
25. The best kind of friend is the kind you sit with, never say a word, and walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you ever had.

I hope some of these tickled your funny bone and lightened your day. As soon as we know when Rose Park Senior Center will open for meetings, we will pass it on to you. Stay well, and in the meantime live, love, laugh, and WRITE.

Mary Berry
AWG President



BRAGS & SAGS

Marguerite Gray: BRAGS: *Wait for Me*, Book Five (the conclusion) in my Revolutionary Faith Series is up for pre-order on Amazon.

Stewart Caffey: BRAGS: I have just published *Remembering Sidney High School*, where I received my public education years ago. It lists graduating students by classes for over 100 years along with lists of teachers and superintendents as far back as 1877-78, the school's first year.

David Dodge: BRAGS: Just sent a book to be published and will get proofs as soon as approved. SAGS: Still COVID and getting older.

Suanna Davis: BRAGS: Wrote a new children's book draft. SAGS: Haven't finished editing the middle grades novel.

Chuck Weber: BRAGS: Currently trying to collate all my written stuff and organize it on my computer. SAGS: It is more problematic than I thought.

Sylvia Forbes: BRAGS: had two historical articles published, *Howard County Residents Recall Christmas During World War II* in the winter 2020 edition, and *The House On the Hill*, in the fall 2020 edition of the *Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly*. She writes two columns (Did You Know? and Membership Tips) per edition for the Texas DAR District VII newsletter. She had an article, *Madonnas of the Trail: DAR Monuments Stretch Across the U.S.* as a Tribute to Early Women Pioneers, published in the Texas DAR April 2020 newsletter. She created a placemat with games about the U.S. Constitution to be used by libraries and schools during Constitution Week in September. She created two Powerpoint presentations, one on suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt, and the other on creating word games, for the DAR District VII summer 2020 workshop. She writes one conservation article per month for her TXDAR chapter newsletter.

WHAT A WG READS



Marguerite Gray: I'm reading *Scrumptious Independence* by Melissa Wardwell and *Wish Upon a Star* by Tabitha Bouldin

David Dodge: Starting to read Del Cain's *Lawmen of the Old West, the Good Guys*.

Suanna Davis: Reading Mackey Chandler's *April* series, book 12.

Carolyn Dycus: Reading volumes of pages for two zoom classes this year so my "outside" reading is *The Canterbury Tales* a few pages each night, my yellowed college second-hand paperback.

Judy Ware: read *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate, a novel based on true stories about children taken illegally, mistreated, and adopted by the Tennessee Children's Home Society. It was operated during the first half of the 20th century by Georgia Tann. She died in 1950 before she could be investigated.

The response to the novel was so great that the author Lisa Wingate and journalist Judy Christie got together a reunion of adoptees from the TCHS. They wrote a book of true, moving stories about the adoptees from Tann's Home Society. The title is *Before and After*. Everyone needs to read both these books!

Linda Gordon: I am reading *The Miller's Dance* (Poldark Series) by Winston Graham and *The Power of Moments* by Chip and Dan Heath

Kay Talley: I am reading *His to Keep* by Sherrinda Ketchersid, to be available soon. It is a sequel to her earlier book, *Lord of Her Heart*, a medieval romance novel to be available soon.

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: David Dodge (2021)
Program VP: Sharon Ellison (2022)
Secretary: Carolyn Dycus (2021)
Treasurer: Gail McMillan (2021)
Board Member: Linda Gordon (2021)
Board Member: Darla McCleod (2021)
Board Member: Mary Ann Smith (2022)
Board Member: Kay Talley (2022)
Alt. Board Member: Chuck Weber (2022)

Monthly Contest Coordinator: Linda Gordon



TO BE A WINNER
YOU MUST ENTER
DON'T DELAY
START TODAY
ANNUAL CONTEST

Entry deadline
November 30



WRITING SHORT STORIES?

\$3,000 FOR THE WINNER

Put together 1500 words in an intriguing story that will capture the hearts of the judges and put \$3000 in your pocket as you march to the

WRITERS DIGEST CONFERENCE

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

Deadline: November 16, 2020



Helpful Writing Tips

Descriptive words

LARGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big • Colossal • Enormous • Gigantic • Huge • Massive • Substantial • Significant • Tremendous 	SMALL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminutive • Little • Miniature • Minute • Petite • Teeny • Tiny • Wee • Slight 	HAPPY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content • Satisfied • Blissful • Joyful • Delighted • Ecstatic • Thrilled • Glad • Pleased
SAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miserable • Gloomy • Dejected • Depressed • Disheartened • Blue • Unhappy • Wretched • Heartbroken 	GOOD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great • Superior • Fantastic • Incredible • Excellent • Amazing • Remarkable • Wonderful • Marvellous 	BAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awful • Terrible • Horrible • Horrific • Dreadful • Outrageous • Shameful • Despicable • Disgraceful
SAID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whispered • Yelled • Exclaimed • Called • Asked • Replied • Responded • Stated • Told 	SCARY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haunting • Terrifying • Creepy • Eerie • Sinister • Chilling • Unnerving • Ghostly • Horrifying 	FUNNY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comical • Hilarious • Entertaining • Humorous • Amusing • Whimsical • Witty • Gleeful • Laughable

did you know?

Hemingwayapp.com is a writing tool that lets you paste in your text and suggests edits for you. It highlights sentences that are hard to read, alerts you of phrases that are written in passive voice, keeps count of your adverbs, and tells you the grade reading level of your writing.

Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. They were the last people you'd expect to be involved in anything strange or mysterious, because they just didn't hold with such nonsense.

Mr Dursley was the director of a firm called Grunnings, which made drills. He was a big, beefy man with hardly any neck, although he did have a very large moustache. Mrs Dursley was thin and blonde and had nearly twice the usual amount of neck, which came in very useful as she spent so much of her time craning over garden fences, spying on the neighbours. The Dursleys had a small son called Dudley and in their opinion there was no finer boy anywhere.

PHOTO: HEMINGWAYAPP.COM

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Grade 10 (Good)

Words: 269

- 4 of 13 sentences are hard to read.
- 3 of 13 sentences are very hard to read.
- 3 phrases have simpler alternatives.



CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

Forty children (ages 5 to 17) who are served by New Horizons, an organization ministering to children through counseling, adoption, and foster care, will be the recipients of AWG's 2020 Service Project. New Horizons has indicated that they will be thrilled to receive journals and writing implements, an appropriate gift from a group of writers.

Because of restrictions imposed upon us during this pandemic, it will be more efficient if members would donate cash rather than items to the project this year. This extra effort on your part will make Christmas a little brighter for a child and may even encourage a budding writer. Gail McMillan, who is in charge of the project, will purchase items so that gifts to each child will be similar.

Please send your cash donation to

Gail McMillan
419 Meadow Lane
Abilene, TX 79602



ABILENE WRITER'S GUILD ANNUAL CONTEST 2020-2021

General Information:

AbileneWritersGuild.org

1. Open to any person age 15 or older.
2. Entries **must** be postmarked **between Oct. 1 and Nov. 30, 2020!** Entries posted earlier or later will NOT be accepted and will not be judged, nor will fees be refunded.
3. Categories with fewer than 5 entries are not eligible for prizes but may be critiqued, and, if possible, they may be added to another category for judging.
4. See categories, descriptions, maximum lengths and entry fees on page 3. Do **not count the title** of your entry in your final word count.
5. All entries must be your original work, unpublished as of October 1, 2020. 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. No fancy fonts! Text should only be on one side of each page.

6. **Cover Sheet** (applies to ALL entries): **Each entry** must have a **separate** cover sheet. **Upper left corner:** your name, complete address, telephone number and email address. **Upper right corner:** list category and number of words or lines. *Space down to middle of page and center your title on the cover sheet.* **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON ANY OTHER PAGE.**

First pages of entries of Poetry and Flash Fiction: **Upper right corner:** list category, (Rhy P, Unrhy P, FP or FF), and number of lines or words. **Center the title of your entry,** double space down and begin. Single space only! **NO AUTHOR'S NAME** on this page!

First pages of Prose Categories 5-9: **Must be typed and DOUBLE-SPACED,** with one-inch margins. **Upper right corner:** list category and number of words. **Do not count your title** in the number of words. **Center your title, double-space down and begin manuscript.** On any succeeding pages, type entry title and page number in upper right corner. **NO AUTHOR'S NAME on any page.**

To Mail Entries: **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.** If you want your entry/entries returned with judges' comments, please provide a large enough SASE with **adequate postage,** otherwise your entry will be discarded on or after **May 31, 2021.** (Rule of thumb: 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 they will all comply.

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 2021, and will be published on our Website by April 15, 2021. Prizes will be sent to winners who cannot attend. Please check our website and/or newsletter for location, date and time of the March Workshop and other details. Entries will be available for pickup immediately following the Workshop.

Abilene Writers Guild Annual Contest 2020-2021 continued

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!

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

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here _____

ABILENE WRITERS GUILD 2020-2021 CONTEST ENTRY FORM

MAIL TO: S. Ellison, 862 Grand Ave, Abilene, TX 79605, 325-665-5195
Email inquiries to: Trliso3@hotmail.com

Your email address: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Make check or money order payable to: Abilene Writers Guild

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

of entries in Categories 5-9 = _____ X \$10.00 each ----- \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Abilene Writers Guild Annual Contest 2020-2021

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Maximum # words/lines</u>	<u>Fee Per Entry</u>
1. Poetry, Rhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
2. Poetry, Unrhymed	any style	50 lines	\$7
3. Flash Poetry-- Must use these 5 words: <i>mighty, kind, forbearing, texture, cancel</i>		100 words	\$7
4. Flash Fiction-- Must use these 5 words: lucid, tidy, feature, immune, pander		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
9. Articles of General Interest*	History, people, events, places	1200 words	\$10

*non-personal, general information for magazines/websites/newspapers

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