

**SHORT STORY FICTION CONTEST  
CONTEST & WRITING GUIDELINES**

ENTRY FEE: \$10.00 PER ENTRY

PRIZES FOR FIRST AND SECOND PLACE

*Ten (10) Bonus Points will be awarded for entries that adhere to all of the Contest/Writing Guidelines.*

- Deadline for Eligibility: Entrants must be registered and conference fee paid for the 2009 Fall Conference by August 11, 2009 to be eligible.
- Contest Entry Fee: \$10.00 per manuscript entered. Enclose a personal check or money order with your entry.
- Deadline for Entries: Entries must be post-marked no later than August 21, 2009
- Winners will be announced and awards presented during the Closing Session at the 2008 Fall Conference—must be present to win.
- Stories must be original fiction and written by the author. Not required to have a Christian theme, but must adhere to Christian principles.
- Typed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper
- Separate Cover Page stapled or paper clipped to top of manuscript labeled Short Story contest. Include title, author's name, and word count only
- Do not put author's name on the manuscript
- Title and Page Number only in the footer on all pages (title at left margin; page number centered or right)
- Double-spaced (lines and paragraphs)
- Single-spaced between sentences
- Title in all caps
- Word count: 800 to 1,500 words (use computer word count)
- See the Contest Judging Criteria for a list of how the submissions will be judged
- Submit two (2) copies of each manuscript—stapled or paper clipped. Enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard if you want confirmation your entry was received. Entries received that do not contain the correct amount of postage will be returned.
- Manuscripts will not be returned to the authors, so keep a copy for your file

*\* Before submitting your entry, take time to ensure that you have followed the Guidelines. \**

Mail your entry to: Christian Authors Guild, Attn: Short Story Contest, P. O. Box 2673, Woodstock, GA 30188  
*Don't forget to enclose the entry fee.*

SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORMAT:

COVER PAGE

<p><b>Short Story Contest</b> TITLE By B. A. Writer word count: _____</p>
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MANUSCRIPT

<p>TITLE</p> <p>TITLE Pg. 1</p>
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CHRISTIAN AUTHORS GUILD  
2009 CATCH THE WAVE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

**SHORT STORY FICTION CONTEST**  
**CONTEST JUDGING CRITERIA**

— *maximum ten (10) points awarded per category* —

1. OPENING:
  - Is there a hook to capture the reader's interest?
  - Does the story start in the right place or is there too much backstory?
2. MAIN CHARACTERS:
  - Vivid
  - Likeable
  - Believable
  - Well described
  - Do they have something special that makes them come alive?
3. SECONDARY CHARACTERS:
  - Believable
  - Provides a good addition to the story
4. CONFLICT:
  - Action
  - Believable
  - Intriguing
5. NARRATION:
  - Balanced with other story elements
  - Descriptive/Five senses
6. DIALOGUE:
  - Each character's voice distinctive, natural, and realistic
  - Moves the story forward
7. SETTING:
  - Time & place presented in clear fashion
8. VERB TENSE:
  - Maintained one verb tense throughout (unless another used for flashbacks)
9. PUBLISHABLE:
  - Similar to publishable material
  - Almost ready to submit
  - Avoids clichés
  - Author has unique voice or style
  - Avoids head-hopping
  - Pacing flows throughout the story
10. BONUS POINTS: Entrant followed all Contest and Writing Guidelines