

THEMA GUIDELINES

ALL SHORT STORIES, ESSAYS, POEMS, and ART/PHOTOGRAPHY MUST RELATE TO ONE OF THE PREMISES SPECIFIED BELOW.

Upcoming premises and deadlines for submission [postmarked]

The Premise

- ☐ I wish I'd said that
- ☐ Today's onerous task
- ☐ While the snowstorm was raging...

Latest postmark

July 1, 2025
November 1, 2025
March 1, 2026

The premise must be an integral part of the story/poem/essay, not necessarily the central theme but not merely incidental. *Indicate **target theme** in cover letter or on first page of manuscript.* Include self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with each submission. Rejected manuscripts unaccompanied by an SASE will not be returned. Response time: 3 months after premise deadline.

NOTE: Stories longer than 20 double-spaced typewritten pages will not be considered.

No handwritten manuscripts will be considered.

Payment: short story, \$25; non-fiction/essay, \$25; short-short piece under 1000 words (flash fiction, short essay), \$10; poem, \$10; artwork/photographs, \$10; cover art/photograph, \$25.

Copyright reverts to the author after publication.

Short Stories: All types welcome—both traditional and experimental

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end to: Virginia Howard, editor, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747
Be sure to indicate premise and include SASE.

What we like: a carefully constructed plot; good character delineation; clever plot twists.

What we don't like: bedroom/bathroom profanity unless necessary.

Why we object to bedroom/bathroom profanity:

- ◇ It's boring! Writers should be more creative than to depend on the same tired and dubious language crutches to express surprise, disdain, shock, bemusement, anger, sadness, and other emotions.
- ◇ Such profanity, used in excess, often serves as a camouflage for a weak plot. If the plot is good, the story can be told much more effectively in nonscatologic language even though a character in the story may be sleazy.
- ◇ Stories of lasting quality rarely need it.

Poetry: All types of poetic form welcome. Submit *no more* than three poems per theme, please.

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end to: Gail Howard, poetry editor, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747
Include SASE and indicate premise. (Please include a *separate* SASE for *each* premise.)

What we like: poems that are thoughtfully constructed and carefully distilled.

What we don't like: sexually explicit wording. Subtlety is more creative.

Art: ***MUST FIT THEME***—Cover: color illustration/photograph; inside art: black and white (pen and ink; computer-generated; photograph) Submit xerographic copy or 5" x 7" photograph (digital printout acceptable) of artwork

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