

THEMA GUIDELINES

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

Upcoming premises and deadlines for submission [postmarked]

The Premise

- ☐ A new routine
- ☐ Maybe next time
- ☐ The lost sock

Latest postmark

July 1, 2024
November 1, 2024
March 1, 2025

The premise must be an integral part of the story, 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; short-short piece (under 1000 words), \$10; poem, \$10; artwork, \$10.
Copyright reverts to author after publication.

Short Stories: All types welcome—both traditional and experimental

- ⇒ Send 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.

- ⇒ Send 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

- ⇒ Send to: Virginia Howard, editor, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011-8747
Include SASE and indicate premise.

Sample copies of THEMA are available in the US at \$15.00 per copy (\$25 outside the US). Subscription rate: \$30.00 per year for three issues (\$40.00, outside the US). Make check payable to "THEMA Literary Society" and mail to THEMA, Box 8747, Metairie, LA 70011 8747.