



# REFERENCE SHEET 2015

File this away for future reference throughout 2015

## NZ CHRISTIAN WRITERS GUILD COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



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## OTHER MEMBERS:

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## COMPETITIONS FOR 2015

Entries should be emailed as a Word attachment by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the magazine's publication date. They need to include your name, word count and—in the case of the Under 30s level—your age as well.

Only one entry allowed per entrant in any given issue of the magazine.

### Which Level do I enter?

**Level One:** A new member or beginner writer. No age restrictions.

**Level Two:** A member promoted from Level One, or who has been placed in Level Two after submitting samples of their writing in three different genres to Janet Fleming and Ruth Linton. No age restrictions.

**Level Three:** Open to members who have moved up from Level Two and to those on the Honours List. No age restrictions.

**Under 30s:** Open to members in the 11-30 year age group. It is not necessary for members to go through Level One before qualifying for this category, but Under 30 entrants are not permitted to also enter a competition at another level in the same month.

**LEVEL ONE** – Email Entries to Debbie McDermott at [sddp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sddp@xtra.co.nz)

**FEBRUARY – due January 10<sup>th</sup>**

CREATIVE: Beginning with the phrase ‘It was a dark and windy night...’ write a story with a cliff-hanger ending. 450 words.

**APRIL – due March 10<sup>th</sup>**

WRITING FOR CHILDREN—Choose a story from the Bible and rewrite it in your own words for children aged 7-8 years. Ensure you use simple language appropriate to the age group. Include the Scripture reference as a footnote. 300 words.

**JUNE - due May 10<sup>th</sup>**

POETRY—Choose a well-known tune and write a hymn that can be easily sung to this tune. Make sure to include the name of the original tune with your entry for judging purposes. Four verses maximum.

**AUGUST – due July 10<sup>th</sup>**

A CAT’S POINT OF VIEW—Have you ever wondered why cats often treat their owners with just the slightest bit of disdain? Using your imagination, pretend you’re one of those snooty cats and write about what’s going through your head as you turn your nose up at your master or mistress. 350 words.

**OCTOBER - due September 10<sup>th</sup>**

BOOK REVIEW—Read a book that has been published in the last two years, and then write a brief review on it. Include author and publisher details as well as your name as the reviewer. 250 words.

**DECEMBER - due November 10<sup>th</sup>**

BIOGRAPHY—Write about the first time the true meaning of Christmas impacted you, and what it has come to mean to you since then. 400-500 words.

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**LEVEL TWO** – Email entries to Janice Gillgren at [mj\\_gillgren@ubernet.co.nz](mailto:mj_gillgren@ubernet.co.nz)

**FEBRUARY – due January 10<sup>th</sup>**

POETRY—Write a descriptive poem (using all five senses) about a special place that makes you feel close to God. The poem should have clear rhythm and rhyme. 20-30 lines.

**APRIL – due March 10<sup>th</sup>**

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE—Write a story about an ‘undercover’ angel (human or divine) helping a person in need. Even if you base it on a true account, it should read like fiction, with good characterisation and a clear storyline. 500-600 words.

**JUNE - due May 10<sup>th</sup>**

REVIEW a documentary about a current issue. The source can be from the internet, DVD or TV, but be sure to get as much source detail as you can, just as you would for a book or movie review. Write a clear précis, and include opinions of your own about the documentary’s value. 400 words total.

## **AUGUST – due July 10<sup>th</sup>**

**CHILDREN’S PLAY**—Write a play based on a Bible story, suitable for up to six children aged about 9-11 years old. Avoid preaching and moralising. It can be up to three acts long, and between 400-500 words. (The word count includes details of cast, scenes and characters.)

## **OCTOBER - due September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**PASS IT ON: ADVICE FROM YESTERYEAR**—Give clear instructions on how to do a useful skill that used to be common, but seems to be little known by the younger generation today. If you prefer, or if you include yourself in the younger generation, write about a current skill as if for the next generation. 300-350 words.

## **DECEMBER - due November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**IN BRIEF**—Using 200 words exactly, (excluding title, word count, and your name), tell us how you believe Christmas or Easter should be celebrated today. Avoid commentary on what you think about current trends.

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## **LEVEL 3 – Email Entries to Ruth Linton at [noru@woosh.co.nz](mailto:noru@woosh.co.nz)**

### **FEBRUARY – due January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**TRAVELOGUE**—Assume your family (imagine it includes two children of school age) has just returned from holiday overseas. Write a travelogue advertising the country visited as a family holiday destination. You may research the country chosen if you have not had a chance to go overseas yet. Please include one suitable photograph, or an acknowledged scan. Maximum 350 words.

### **APRIL – due March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**POETRY: LIMERICKS**—Limericks are short poems with set line lengths, rhythm and rhyme patterns. They usually contain quirky humour and are fun to read. Read as many limericks as you can and then write your own. You may submit two limericks if you enjoy writing them. However, only one will be placed. Strict rhyme and rhythm pattern essential. Five lines only.

### **JUNE - due May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**WRITING STYLE: PASSIVE VOICE AND ACTIVE VOICE**— Research the ‘passive and active voice.’ (Google is helpful here.) Write a short report on a local event using the active voice. Now re-write the article using the passive voice. Maximum 150 words per report; total of 300 words.

### **AUGUST – due July 10<sup>th</sup>**

**RESEARCH**—Research the pattern of immigration over the past ten years. Identify three major groups/nationalities. What issues could result from their increased participation in our society? How should we, as Christians, respond to these challenges? Maximum 450 words.

## **OCTOBER - due September 10<sup>th</sup>**

MAGAZINE ARTICLES— Choose one of the following topics. Write an article on the topic including examples and practise exercises for the reader. Maximum 400 words.

Topics: Writing 'Voices' e.g. First person, second person etc.

Tenses – Past, Present, Future, Perfect and Continuous.

Colons and Semi Colons and their uses.

Rules for using good direct speech.

## **DECEMBER - due November 10<sup>th</sup>**

SHORT STORY—Jesus said, in John 10:10, that he came that we might have life and life more abundant. Write a story (fiction, non-fiction or faction – a combination of both) to illustrate abundant life in a modern context. Avoid preaching; show, not tell. Maximum 500 words.

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**UNDER 30s** – Email Entries to Vicki Nogaj at [nogaj@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:nogaj@vodafone.co.nz)

## **FEBRUARY – due January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Write from one of David's sheep's POV (Point of View) when he killed the lion and bear. 300-350 words.

## **APRIL – due March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Write a thank you letter from a person whom Jesus healed. What happened to them after the healing? 150-200 words.

## **JUNE - due May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Take two cartoon heroes and put them in an elevator together. Write a skit on what happens and tie in an underlying message. e.g. Patience, forgiveness, turning the other cheek. 300-325 words.

## **AUGUST – due July 10<sup>th</sup>**

You're a reporter and you just saw Jill push Jack down the hill. What happens to Jill? Write the resulting article. 200-250 words (standard press article).

## **OCTOBER - due September 10<sup>th</sup>**

Write a poem describing a favourite vacation spot. It could be real or imaginary. It must be three stanzas long with a minimum of four lines per stanza. It doesn't have to rhyme.

## **DECEMBER - due November 10<sup>th</sup>**

You are standing in the manger scene. What do you hear and smell? 250-300 words.