

LA PLUME

“Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man” Francis Bacon

Official Newsletter of the Writers’ Guild of Acadiana

October 2021

Board Members:

President Sudie Landry, Vice President Christopher Fontenot, Treasurer Beth Davis, Publicist Ellen Threatts, Webmaster & Newsletter John Comeaux, John Francois and all past WGA Presidents in good standing.

Next Meeting * NEW START TIME *:

October 26, 2021. The South Regional Branch of the Lafayette Library, Auditorium. Address is 6101 Johnston St, Lafayette. **Start time is 6:00 p.m.** We usually go to 7:15, but we must end by 7:30. The Library currently is limiting us to 25 attendees.

October is guest speaker month.

We will have a Door Prize from the books that were donated by authors.

October Speaker:

Our Guest speaker for October is Alisha Vincent, local author. A.L. Vincent is a teacher/writer who lives in the heart of Cajun Country. Born in Oklahoma, Vincent became fascinated with South Louisiana after reading “Interview With the Vampire.” Finally, she became a Cajun transplant in 2001. When not getting lost in a story line, Vincent can be found cooking or enjoying live local music.

Looking Ahead: November Meeting

November is members reading month. All WGA members are free to bring written material to share with the group, and five minutes will be allotted for each reader. Singers and songwriters within the organization are invited to share their work as a cappella or acoustic numbers; however, there is a limit of one song per performer and the song must also be no longer than five minutes.

Upcoming Prompts: NOVEMBER

My Broken Heart
Category: Poetry

This is a fun competition for members. The prompt MUST APPEAR somewhere within the work, and entries must be no longer than 500 words. When the prompt category is poetry, both traditional and free verse poems are acceptable. All entries must be typed and double-spaced. The story or poem must have the word count, title, author’s name, and date of the competition written at the top of the first page, and a paper copy of the winner and runner-up is to be handed in to the president after the judging. Contest participants are not allowed to enter the contest with works that are typed on I-phones or any other electronic devices.

WEB Page and Facebook

Our web page is here: <https://www.writersguildacadiana.org/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/writersguildacadiana.org/>

The Writers' Guild is always willing to share the success stories of its members. Be sure to let us know about your writing. We will put your blurb on our website, on our Facebook page, and on this newsletter. Let's highlight and showcase our writers! Send us a synopsis or your own paragraph about the work you are working on or have published, and how to get it.

Send to John at jpcoman9@gmail.com .

Request for Donations:

The WGA Board accepts donations of books written by our published authors to offer as door prizes at our monthly meetings. Tickets will be given to all members who arrive before 6:00 PM, and one lucky winner will receive a copy of whichever work has been donated for that month. If you are a published author and would like to contribute an extra copy of one or more of your books, please contact Sudie Landry at praisemusicpro@cox.net.

◆ Writing Tips

10 Ways To Hook Your Reader (and Reel Them in for Good)

Ann Garvin (Writer's Digest)

When I wanted to write an essay about my difficult relationship with my brother I had to figure out a way to make it interesting to other people so I turned to these 10 elements to keep the story rolling. Here are the elements that were taken into account every step of the way when writing the essay:

1. Begin at a pivotal moment
2. Add an unusual situation.
3. Add an intriguing character
4. Conflict
5. Add an antagonist
6. Change emotion
7. Irony and surprise
8. Make People Wonder
9. Dread Factor
10. Keep narrative voice compelling

Full Article: <https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-fiction/10-ways-hook-reader-reel-good>

◆ Technical

7 Self-Editing Processes for Writers

Fiction editor and author Kris Spisak ties together her seven processes for self-editing novels, including editorial road-mapping, character differentiation analysis, reverse editing, and more.

Reviewing your own book sounds cumbersome and sometimes intimidating, but here's the key to remember: Editing is not a singular process but the Swiss Army knife of creative tools. Endless problems can be solved when you know how to maneuver the possibilities at your fingertips. And with these possibilities, you can indeed find your way to "done." Full article [website is here](#).

Phase One (Big-Picture) Editing Exercises:

Thinking about developmental editing, or examining your story on a macro-level? Consider:

1. Creating a post-first-draft outline – How does this story of yours come together, and is it structured as powerfully as it could be?
2. Shaping an editorial roadmap – How should you even begin to tackle your revision process?

Phase Two (Empowering the Subtleties) Editing Exercises:

Thinking about micro-editing and allowing your writing to stand out amidst a crowded marketplace? Consider:

3. Fleshing out your character differentiation – How can you empower your characters as individuals and empower your entire story in the process?
4. Deleting your cheating words – How can the language you use within your manuscript shift from something that falls flat to something that keeps readers on the edges of their seats?

Phase Three (The Final Polish!) Editing Exercises:

Thinking about line-editing, proofreading, dotting every i, and crossing every t? Consider:

5. Tackling a reverse edit – How can you ensure you are being the most detail-oriented proofreader you can be?
6. Challenging yourself to a timed edit – How can you force yourself to remain focused on editing, not simply re-reading your manuscript?

An Anytime Revision Strategy:

Need something to simply get you moving? Consider:

7. Revising in Waves – How can a writer get into an "editing zone"?

Editing is where we can release the ego of our writer-self, giving ourselves a fresh perspective on the words on the page and the story contained there. Don't just reread your manuscript. Empower it in every way that you can.

◆ **Contests**

Writer's Digest *Short Short* Story Completion

For over 20 years, Writer's Digest's Short Short Story Competition has been looking for and shining the light on amazing short fiction. It's that time again—we're looking for writing that's bold, brilliant and, most of all, brief.

Think you can write a winning story in 1,500 words or less? Send us your best stories and you could win \$3,000 in cash, a trip to New York City for the Writer's Digest Annual Conference 2022, and an interview for a feature article in our magazine.

Ready to be the next writer we spotlight? [Enter by November 15!](#)

WD Poetic Form Challenge: Rondel Supreme

The WD Poetic Form Challenge is your opportunity to write and share a poem (the rondel supreme this time around) for a chance to get published in the Poetic Asides column in Writer's Digest. Deadline: December 5, 2021. Full Article here: [Rondel Supreme](#).

- This time around, we'll write the rondel supreme, a 14-line French poetic form. Find the rules for [writing the rondel supreme here](#).

The rondel supreme is a French poetic form with the following guidelines:

- 14-line poem broken into three stanzas.
- First two stanzas have four lines and final stanza has six lines.
- Rhyme scheme: ABba/abAB/abbaAB (capital letters are refrains).
- No restrictions on syllables or subjects.

So start writing them and sharing on the Writer's Digest web posting for a chance to be published in *Writer's Digest* magazine—as part of the Poetic Asides column.

Note on commenting: On this new site, you have to set up a free [Disqus](#) account and then scroll to the bottom of the posting page (or any page on the WD site) to register with the WritersDigest.com site (also free). Then, you can start commenting away!

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ROBERT LEE BREWER

Here's how the challenge works:

- Challenge is free. No entry fee.
- The winner (and sometimes a runner-up or two) will be featured in a future edition of *Writer's Digest* magazine as part of the Poetic Asides column.
- **Deadline 11:59 p.m. (Atlanta, GA time) on December 5, 2021.**
- (*Editor's note: Read the full article for rules.*)

Would you like to join?

WGA values your membership and we hope that you will give every consideration to renewing it. Membership fee is suspended for 2021. Regular dues of \$25. will resume in 2022. In addition, members receive a monthly newsletter along with first notice for workshops, seminars, and conferences put on by the Writers' Guild.

Write to Writers' Guild of Acadiana, Inc., P.O. Box 51532, Lafayette, LA, 70505-1532.

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Date _____

How did you find out about us? _____
