

2009 MANUSCRIPT CONTEST

You are invited to submit a one-page synopsis and the first 10 pages of your unpublished work to the League's 10th annual Manuscript Contest. The winner in each category will meet individually with an agent at the Writers' League of Texas Agents & Editors Conference, June 26-28, 2009.

The Writers' League of Texas is a nonprofit professional organization whose primary purpose is to provide a forum for information, support, and sharing among writers, to help members improve and market their writing skills, and to promote the interests of writers and the writing community.



The Writers' League of Texas is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES:

Fiction Categories

- Mainstream Fiction
- Thriller/Action-Adventure
- Mystery
- Romance
- Science-Fiction/Fantasy
- Historical Fiction

Nonfiction Categories

- Narrative Nonfiction

Children's Categories

- Children/Middle Grade (no picture books)
- Young Adult

CONTEST RULES:

1. Entries must be postmarked by March 6, 2009, or delivered by 6 p.m.
2. Entries must be typed and double-spaced in proper manuscript format on one side of 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. Use 12 pt. Times New Roman or Courier with a 1-inch margin. Title must appear at top of each page.
3. Manuscripts must be original, unpublished, and not accepted for publication.
4. If judges deem that none of the entries in a given category meet contest standards, no entrants will be recognized.

Failure to abide by the rules will result in disqualification and forfeiture of entry fee.

ENTRY PACKAGE:

Please check and recheck. An incomplete entry could result in disqualification.

The entry package should include:

1. One cover sheet with title, contest category, and author's name.
2. Signed entry form. (one entry form per submission is required)
3. Four copies of one-page, double-spaced synopsis.

Please take time with your synopsis, as it will be judged with the manuscript.

Your name must not appear on the synopsis.

4. Four copies of up to 10 double-spaced pages beginning with the first page of your work.

Your name must not appear on the manuscript.

5. Paper clip a copy of the synopsis to each copy of the 10-page manuscript entry for a total of four sets.

6. Entry fee of \$50. Please make check or money order payable to the Writers' League of Texas, or include credit card information. Do not staple check to entry form.

No cash will be accepted.

7. For return of score sheet, include one self-addressed regular envelope with first-class stamp affixed.

8. No manuscript will be returned.

9. Optional: Self-addressed stamped postcard for confirmation of submission receipt.

JUDGING AND NOTIFICATION:

Judges will score each manuscript. An agent or editor will read the finalists' manuscripts and choose the winner. The League will notify finalists by May 28, 2009, and winners will be announced June 27, 2009.

MAILING CHECKLIST:

- 1 copy of cover sheet
- 4 copies of synopsis (your name must not appear on your synopsis)
- 4 copies of manuscript entry (your name must not appear on manuscript. Please keep an additional copy for your records)
- Signed entry form
- \$50 entry fee
- SASE for return of score sheet
- Optional SAS postcard for confirmation.

PRIZE:

The prize for the winner in each category is a one-on-one meeting with an agent or editor at the Writers' League of Texas Agents & Editors Conference, held June 26-28, 2009. Winners will be announced during the opening ceremony of the Conference, June 27, and will meet with the agent or editor who judged their work shortly after the ceremony. Winners must be present at the ceremony in order to receive the prize. Finalists need not register for the conference to attend the opening ceremony, but those not registered will not be permitted to attend conference events. For winners who have registered for the conference, this prize is in addition to the 10-minute meeting included in the cost of registration.

Questions?

Visit our website to review Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the 2009 Manuscript Contest: www.WritersLeague.org

Mail your entry to:

**Writers' League of Texas
(Name of Category)
611 S. Congress Ave., Suite 130
Austin, Texas 78704**

Contact Information:

Email: wlt@WritersLeague.org
Phone: 512-499-8914

How did you hear about the Manuscript Contest?

Entry Form (please print):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Entry Title: _____

CATEGORY (CHECK ONE):

Fiction Categories

Mainstream Fiction Romance Historical Fiction
 Thriller/Action-Adventure Science-Fiction/Fantasy Mystery

Nonfiction Category

Narrative Nonfiction

Children's Book Categories

Children/Middle Grade Categories (no picture books) Young Adult

Enclosed Fee: \$50 entry fee (Score sheet with comments will be returned to you)

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

Check or Money Order (circle one) : Made payable to Writers' League of Texas

Credit Card (Circle One): Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

ENTRANT'S AGREEMENT

In consideration of the acceptance of my work for entry and review in the Writers' League of Texas 2009 Manuscript Contest, I hereby submit my fee for entry, and agree to be bound by the contest rules and understand them. I understand that any question regarding the interpretation of the contest rules and any matters relating to the contest that are not specifically covered by the contest rules will be decided upon solely at the discretion of the contest officials. I understand and agree that my manuscript will be subjectively evaluated. I hold harmless and indemnify the Writers' League of Texas and its agents, employees, and volunteers for any and all losses, costs, and expenses incurred from any dispute arising from my participation in the Writers' League of Texas 2009 Manuscript Contest. I acknowledge by my signature below that I have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by the contest rules of the Writers' League of Texas 2009 Manuscript Contest. I understand that my contest submission will not be accepted without my signature below, and that under no condition will my entry fee be refunded.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Photocopy this form for multiple entries. Each entry form must have an original signature.)

"This is one of the most writer-focused competitions of its kind. The unbiased, lengthy written critiques that everyone receives are worth the entry fee alone."

Lynda Rutledge

Winner/Narrative Nonfiction Category

"Winning the Manuscript Contest infused me with confidence. During the whirlwind conference weekend, several agents spent time getting to know me—quite an unexpected delight. A month later, I signed with the agent that captivated me. I feel deep gratitude to WLT, and this life-changing contest."

Rhonda Rhodes

Winner, Romance Category

"Entering the Manuscript Contest gets you more than just a chance to win; you get to see your work through the "fresh eyes" of people who really care about writing."

Gaellin Quinn

Winner, Mainstream Historical Category

"After years of churning away on my first novel, stopping and starting and procrastinating, I was talked into submitting my novel to the Manuscript Contest by another writer. And guess what? I won! I just couldn't believe it."

Gale Albright

Winner, Young-Adult Category

"Aside from the detailed feedback you'll receive, if you're fortunate enough to win you'll have the pleasure of sitting across from an agent who wants nothing more than to hear you talk about the project you love."

Jennifer Hritz

Winner, Fiction Category

"The in-depth critique every Manuscript Contest entrant receives is worth the price of submission. Winning means a consultation with the agent who chose your piece as the best in the category, and that experience can be immeasurable. But you won't know unless you try."

Jennifer Cranfill

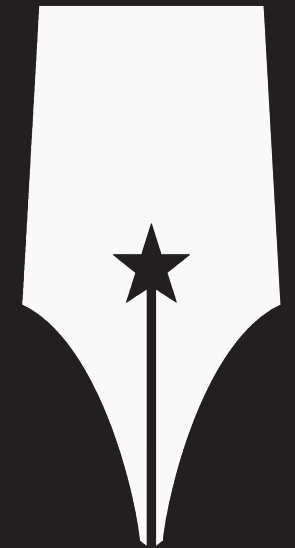
Winner, Mystery Category

"Just enter! You spend so many hours with your characters and their stories inside your head. This is a chance to let your work speak to others. The critiques provide valuable insight, plus you might win, and that's the best validation you can get short of publication."

Sheree Noble

Winner, Thriller / Action-Adventure Category

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