

# 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]***

<i>The Premise</i>	<i>Latest postmark</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> The lost sock	March 1, 2025
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish I'd said that	July 1, 2025
<input type="checkbox"/> Today's onerous task	November 1, 2025

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

⇒ 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.*

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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.