

LLC Fiction Writing Contest

Announced March 16, 2024

LLC is pleased to announce a writing contest for writers of all ages. The aim is to receive manuscripts in long-fiction (novel) format aimed at the teenager or young adult audience. The contest is open until November 30, 2024.

Fiction offers a means to address all manner of questions that believers encounter in their lives. It has been noted that through fiction, some questions can be addressed that may be difficult to discuss in other forms of writing.

LLC regularly receives requests for more fiction by believing authors, especially fiction for teenagers and young adults. This is why we are holding this writing contest. Our sister organization in Finland, the SRK, has arranged such writing contests numerous times and through them has successfully found publishable manuscripts that have become well-read novels. Some of them have been published in English, like *Say Thanks, J.O.*, and *Patrician's Daughter*.

We ask interested writers to submit manuscripts to the LLC. The LLC Print Publications Committee or a subcommittee thereof will select two manuscripts as winners of the competition.

The selected writers will be assigned an LLC editor who will work with the writer to produce a manuscript that will be published by LLC as a novel in print, digital and audio format.

The hope is that manuscripts submitted to the writing contest depict the lives of believing characters, offer an authentic and interesting view on the lives of believing youth, children and adults, and are supportive of faith. The manuscripts can also tell about finding living faith, or about losing faith and then finding God's kingdom again.

A good story for the intended age group has a plot that engages the reader from beginning to end. A novel need not say everything. It can leave room for the reader's thoughts and interpretations. The novel allows freedom in how the story is structured and how it resolves. Nevertheless, a believer novel wouldn't leave central questions of faith unresolved. The manuscript can consist of separate stories about the same characters, stories that together form a cohesive entity.

How to participate in the contest

The manuscript should be typed on a computer and sent in printed on paper. The recommended manuscript length for this type of book is 120-200 pages double-spaced.

Manuscripts will be evaluated anonymously. To allow this to happen, send your manuscript to LLC (212 West 3rd Street, Monticello, MN 55362) and mark your envelope with “2024 Writing Contest.” Mark your actual manuscript only with a code name or pseudonym. Enclose within the envelope a sealed smaller envelope that contains your code name, your actual name and contact information.

The manuscripts will be evaluated from two perspectives: success depends on both the literary quality of the manuscript (how well written it is) and how the perspective of faith is presented. Faith should be a natural part of the overall story, not a tacked-on afterthought.

By participating in the LLC Fiction Writing Contest, the writers grant full rights to their manuscripts to the LLC. Author royalties will be offered for published works. Submitted manuscripts will not be returned.

If you have questions or would like more information on this writing contest, please contact Matthew Keranen, mkeranen@llchurch.org