

Mslexia Contributors' Guidelines

Mslexia welcomes submissions for every part of the magazine. We commission work by prominent authors and artists as well as talented newcomers. For a clear idea of the full range of material we publish, why not take advantage of our **TRY BEFORE YOU BUY OFFER?** For details of this offer, reach us by phone, 0191 261 6656, email, postbag@mslexia.co.uk – or visit www.mslexia.co.uk

NEW WRITING

This is a substantial section of poetry and prose by published and unpublished authors, selected and introduced by our Mystery Guest Editor. Previous Mystery Guests include Fay Weldon, Michèle Roberts, Fleur Adcock and Val McDermid. The themes and deadlines for upcoming issues are:

Issue 41: Mslexia Women's Short Story Competition.

Submissions are now welcomed for Mslexia's inaugural short story competition.

Judge: **Helen Simpson.**

Stories can be up to 2,200 words, on any topic or theme. 1st prize: £2,000 plus a one week writing retreat at Chawton House Library and a day with a Virago editor. 2nd: £500; 3rd: £250; 3 other finalists will win £100 each. Agent Carole Blake of Blake Friedmann will read all of the winning entries. For full details please visit our website www.mslexia.co.uk. Entry Fee: £8 per story.

Deadline: 23 January 2009

Issue 42: Mslexia Women's Poetry Competition

Judge and submission details TBC

Deadline: 24 April 2009

PLEASE NOTE, we will not be able to return any stories or poems sent into the competitions, so please retain your own copy. If you require acknowledgment of receipt please enclose an SAE labelled 'Acknowledgment'. Emailed submissions will only be accepted from writers living overseas. If you are submitting by email, please include your land address and telephone number. Send short stories to shortstory@mslexia.co.uk and poetry to poetry@mslexia.co.uk.

FOR SUBSCRIBERS ONLY

We invite subscribers to submit to OutNow/How I Did It (240 words). **Deadline: 14 November 2008**

DIRECTORY

Mslexia publishes a comprehensive literature listings section, including the UK, the Republic of Ireland and Further Afield. If you know of – or are involved in – anything that might be of interest to Mslexia readers, please email details to listings@mslexia.co.uk and we will do our best to include you. **Deadline for issue 40 (JANFEBMAR): 1 December 2008 for events from 18 January 2009 to end of April 2009.**

We look forward to hearing from you

OTHER SUBMISSIONS

Flash Fiction: this is a new literary form that is growing in popularity, especially on the web. The ideal piece of flash fiction tells a complete story in as few words as possible. The theme for your flashes of genius? **Balloons.** The word limit? 150.

For initial guidance, see our Joy of Flash Fiction article on www.mslexia.co.uk/magazine/features/joyof_32.html

Deadline: 14 November 2008

We regret we can only inform you of the outcome of your submission if it is accompanied by an SAE. If sending several types of work (e.g., two poems, a short story, a flash fiction entry), please enclose an appropriate number of return envelopes.

Autobiography: *Curious Incidents* is a new non-fiction slot that challenges you to mine your memory for true-life events that will touch us or teach us. Issue 40's topic is **Heirlooms** – but we will consider *Curious Incidents* on any autobiographical topic. 900 words only, please, plus CV and a brief bio. **There is no need to send an SAE.** Your piece will be filed, as a sample of your writing. We will contact you if we want to publish or discuss a commission.

Deadline: 14 November 2008

Feature articles: Ideas for one-off features are welcome, as a 200-word proposal plus a brief CV and a published or unpublished example of your writing. **There is no need to enclose an SAE.** We will keep your details on file and contact you if we want to discuss a commission.

One I love: Potential reviewers – published and unpublished – are also invited to submit to our One I love feature. Please send a 350-word account of how one book has influenced you as a writer, or as a woman. **There is no need to enclose an SAE.** We will keep your details on file and contact you if we want to publish your review.

Deadline: 31 October 2008

Book reviews: If you are a published reviewer, please send a sample review and a brief CV. **There is no need to send an SAE.** We will keep your details on file and contact you if we want to discuss a commission. Girls under 16 who would like to review children's/YA books for us, send any sample of your writing.

Illustrations

Women visual artists, please send non-returnable examples of your work + CV. We will contact you if we want to discuss a commission.