



2016 Collection Contest Entry Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Hide and Seek, Volume 8
Florida Writers Association



Hide and Seek is the title and theme for the 2016 *Florida Writers Association Collection, Volume 8* of sixty short pieces, written by FWA members, submitted electronically, published by FWA, and marketed across the nation through national booksellers as well as on our own website.

The Collection is published annually, sponsored by FWA's Board of Directors and Black Oyster Publishing, FWA's Official publisher. Each year presents a new theme and Person of Renown. This year's Person of Renown is John Gilstrap. John is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Against All Enemies* (July 2015), as well as other works, *End Game*, *High Treason*, *Damage Control*, *Threat Warning*, *Hostage Zero*, *No Mercy*, *Nathan's Run*, *At All Costs*, *Even Steven*, *Scott Free* and *Six Minutes to Freedom*. In addition, he has written four screenplays for Hollywood, adapting the works of Nelson DeMille, Norman McLean, and Thomas Harris. He is contracted to write and co-produce the film adaptation of his book, *Six Minutes to Freedom*.

Hide and Seek, John's theme for volume #8, is all about hiding, and seeking. He describes the theme in this way: "For everyone who has something (or someone) to hide, there's someone else out there that wants to find it." Fiction, nonfiction, prose, and poetry are all acceptable.

Every entrant is allowed two submissions. Two submissions by a single author may consist of two stories, one story and one poem or two poems. This is a blind judging. No one knows who author is until the sixty winners are announced. Readers love interesting stories, inspiring, humorous, poignant, silly, sad, or amazing. All entries will receive an entry acknowledgement.

FWA's judges will select their sixty favorites from the electronic submissions received between February 1st, 2016 and midnight April 30th, 2016 (Eastern Standard Time). Judges score each entry independently. Each judge submits his/her scores to the Collections coordinator who computes the total. The top sixty highest scoring entries will be published.

The top 10: From the sixty winning entries, John Gilstrap will name his ten favorites. John's selected ten will be published in order of his favorites, and the remaining fifty will follow alphabetically by author's last name. Once selected, authors of the top 10 will be posted on FWA's website, floridawriters.net, in FWA's e-newsletter, and published in both *The Florida*

Writer and FWA's annual conference program. Every entrant will receive an email notification indicating whether or not they are among the top sixty and the top ten.

2016 FWA Collection Contest Guidelines

1. All entries must be electronically submitted between February 1st and April 30th, 2016 (Eastern Standard Time). Only FWA members are eligible. Acknowledgement of entry receipt as well as all correspondence will be via email. Submit entries to: collection@floridawriters.net. FWA membership must be current through the end of October, 2016 at the time of entry.
2. Entry must be original, and unpublished. Entry must not be accepted by any other publishers at time of submission or until notification of publication by FWA. Members are encouraged to participate in one of FWA's critique groups to ensure submissions are print-ready when entered. FWA also offers a special editing service at a special discount price, during the contest, at editing@floridawriters.net. If submissions are not within the theme or strongly on topic, they will be disqualified and returned.
3. There is no entry fee. Each FWA member may submit no more than two entries, with no more than one being selected for publication.
4. Short story word count—1,200 words maximum, poem line count – 50 lines maximum, 12 point, Times New Roman, double spaced.
5. Your name, contact email address, FWA Membership Number, story/poem title, word or line count, and up to a maximum of 50 words bio must be at the top left corner preceding the story/poem.
6. Your last name, followed by your first name, followed by your entry title must be the subject line of your email entry.
7. Your entry must contain your story/poem as a Word document attachment, and your picture as a jpeg attachment. If you submit two entries, only one of them needs the picture attachment.
8. No erotica.
9. FWA has first-time e-publishing as well as publishing rights in North America only, including republishing and electronic republishing of the entire book or e-book, as determined by sales, while authors retain the right to republish their stories/poems individually, if they so desire. The author retains the copyright to his/her work.
10. All authors receive an email notification indicating whether or not their submission is selected as one of the final sixty. Authors whose entries are selected will be required to electronically sign a legal release for printing rights, as outlined above, to be assigned to Florida Writers Association. Authors must electronically sign and return the agreement to the collection coordinator.
11. All submissions are contributed to FWA for publication in exchange for author recognition.
12. FWA does not retain any rights to unselected works without written author approval.
13. Books will be sold for the first time at the annual FWA Conference, referred to as its release date, and subsequently through FWA's website, at the Conference Bookstore, at FWA Mini-Conferences throughout the year, and through national outlets.

FWA offers our members great opportunities to publish their work. This collection contest is one of them. Plus, it's a super way to support the Florida Writers Association as well as enhance writers' own marketing strategies.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. May I submit to other publishers while I wait to hear if my story wins in the Collection?

Answer:

- a. No. You may submit to other publishers as soon as you are notified that you **did not** win in the Collection.
- b. You may not simultaneously submit to the Collection contest and any other publisher.
- c. You may not submit a piece to the Collection contest if you have already submitted it to another publisher and are waiting to hear from them.
- d. If you are planning to include your entry in an upcoming publication of your own, and your entry wins, you must wait until after the first day of the FWA conference in October to publish your upcoming publication.

2. Does my story have to have a first line indent at each new paragraph?

Answer:

- a. First line indent at each new paragraph is optional.
- b. Double space entire short story.
- c. Do not use an extra double space between paragraphs or asterisks.

3. How do I separate time spans within my story?

Answer:

- a. Use three asterisks (***), centered.
- b. Do not add spaces between, above or below asterisks (see 3.a.).

4. May I use the "Enter" key, or paragraph key, to choose my own line length for my short story?

Answer:

- a. No. You must use Word document default line spacing for the margins of your short stories.
- b. Only for poetry may you determine line length. Poetry must be double spaced. Stanzas may be separated by using one extra paragraph space.

5. May I submit my story in a .pdf, .jpeg, or .rtf file format, or just copy it into the body of the email?

Answer:

- a. All entries must be in Word document file format. You may use .doc or docx, or Word 2016 for Mac (for Mac users) file format.
- b. Do not type your short story or poem in the body of your email.
- c. All entries must have author information at the top of the page, flush left, preceding the story/poem.

6. What does "author information" mean?

Answer: Author Information consists of six pieces of information about the author which must precede the story/poem in the Word document attachment. It must be flush left, at the top of the first page.

- a. Author name

- b. Contact email address
 - c. FWA membership ID number
 - d. Title of the story/poem
 - e. Word count of the story (1,200 maximum); or line count of the poem (50 lines maximum).
 - f. Up to a 50-word maximum bio of the author
7. How soon do I have to renew my membership after I enter?
- Answer:
- a. Memberships, if they expire prior to the last day of October, must be renewed by the time the entry is submitted. That means if a membership expires on or before October 31st, and entrant is submitting in February, entrant must send in the membership renewal in February. Memberships run from due date to due date, for the length of the subscription, regardless of when they are sent in.
 - b. Entries submitted without renewals for memberships that expire prior to the last day of October will be returned.
8. If I put my name and information in the Word document, will the judges see that?
- Answer:
- a. Entries are posted to a reading website with an entry number, the title of the piece, and the word count, or line count for poems. No judge sees the author name of any entry.
 - b. The information page at the beginning of the entry helps match up the correct author's picture with the correct story/poem when the final manuscript for the publisher is assembled.
9. Who can enter the contest?
- Answer:
- a. Any current FWA member.
 - b. Judges may enter the contest.
10. If I use the editing service, will my entry get in on time?
- Answer:
- a. The editing service FWA offers its members especially for the Collection contest has a guarantee with it that the entrant will receive their edited material back in time to submit it into the contest.
 - b. The editing service is available up to the last two weeks of the contest.
11. How can I be sure my pen name will be used if my entry wins?
- Answer:
- a. All winning authors complete a legal document which contains an area requesting how the author wants their name published in the book.
 - b. Any notation referencing how entrants wish their names published should they win will be followed.
12. Will I receive a critique or feedback on my entry?
- Answer:
- a. No feedback or critiquing is provided for the collection contest entries during or after the close of the contest.
 - b. No editing is provided for entries after submission. Only minor items that happen to be caught during the audit of the entry will be altered. Example: an obviously misspelled

word, missing quote mark, or period at the end of a sentence, or capitalization at the beginning of a sentence, **if it happens to be caught.**

c. All entries are considered print-ready when received.

13. If feedback and critiquing is not provided, what criteria do the judges use?

Answer: Judges evaluate entries on a scale of between one and ten (ten meaning the story/poem is excellent).

a. Whether or not the author remained strongly on topic/theme.

b. Originality/creativity.

c. Emotional impact/connectivity with the reader.

d. Attention/purpose paid to spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

14. I received notification that my entry didn't make the top sixty. Can I request further judge evaluations to ensure that nothing was missed?

Answer:

a. Once the contest ends, no re-judging may take place.

b. For the collection contest, FWA provides 7 judges, all of whom read and score every entry. All seven judges' scores are totaled and the sixty winners are determined by the highest total scores.

14. If I enter two stories/poems in the contest and both entries score within the top sixty winning scores, will both my entries get published?

Answer:

a. No. Only one winning story/poem is eligible per collection book.

b. If two stories/poems from one author score within the top sixty, the highest scoring entry will be published.

15. If I enter the collection contest, when will I know if my entry won?

Answer:

a. Because of the large influx of entries in the last few days of the contest, winners are calculated between one and two weeks following the close of the contest. Each entrant receives an email notification whether or not they are among the top sixty winning authors. Also, winning authors' announcements are posted to networks and media as soon as they are available.

b. The Top Ten Favorites from the Person of Renown receive an email notification and announcements are posted as soon as they are received, usually sometime in June.

16. If I am a winning author, may I post my entry on my blog, or Facebook?

Answer:

a. No. Posting the entry to any social media is considered publishing it and doing that will disqualify it from being published in the collection.

b. Winning authors, however, may make announcements anywhere that they will be published authors in the collection.

17. If I have questions about the collection contest, to whom do I send queries?

Answer: Questions may be emailed to: contactus@floridawriters.net.