

# NORTH WEST LITERARY ARTS

Volume 1 / Issue 4

## SUPPORTERS TABLE

Thank you to Inés, Katherine, Kevin, Waterstones King Street, and Lancaster University-Grad College for helping us continue creating engaging, live literature events, writer development opportunities, podcasts and publications!

We are also super thrilled that New Writing North has offered to support the development of our arts organization.

## THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

Last month we shared stories loosely exploring the theme “alternative paths.” Stories explored what ifs, maybes, and things (and people) that might have been. What an amazing night!

One thing I love about Stories at the Storey is the feeling of immediacy and intimacy a room full of personal essays creates. Stories build community. To capture some of the vibe, each month we’ll be posting audio versions of the stories. I hope we capture some of the energy, emotion, and atmosphere. I’m recording mine and will release it on Patreon first.

If you would like to share your story via text or audio, please let us know.

Next month’s theme is “empty nest” (loosely interpreted). We are inviting readers to share their 3-5 minute (2-3 typed page) true story exploring being alone, loneliness, growing up, moving on, and anything in between.

If you’d like to share your 3-5 minute true story in person, via email, on our website, Facebook or Twitter, let us know.

At Stories at the Storey there’s always room for one more.

## WHAT’S NEW?

This month we are working with New Writing North to launch their Northern Writers Award. The launch is an opportunity to meet other writers and get information on the awards. There will be readings and refreshments. If you’re considering entering, the event is a great opportunity to get useful advice. Order your free ticket(s) via [Eventbrite](#).

## Tips and Prompts

Recently I had the opportunity to read submissions for an upcoming performance and publication. Here are a few tips about submitting work for publications and events:

1. Read the guidelines: most opportunities post their guidelines. If they are asking for a theme, submit work that explores the theme. If they want work submitted through a platform, submit through the platform. If the guidelines say do not include your name on the submission, do not include your name. Following submission guidelines shows that you’ve read them and is a mark of your professionalism.
2. Submit by the deadline: while there are seldom rewards for submitting prior to the deadline, submitting after the deadline means your work does not get read.
3. Ask questions: If you have a question that the FAQ sheet does not answer, ask. Most opportunities list a contact person. That person is a great source of information.

4. Research: when in doubt, find it out. If you aren't sure whether the contest is legitimate, do a bit of research. Find out what other professionals are saying about it. Look at previous winners to find out where they published. Even if you are sure about the organization, I recommend researching the judges; that insight may help you find out what they are looking for in an entry.
  
5. Enter: After weighing the costs (time, entry or reading fees) if there is a chance that the benefits outweigh the costs, enter. Many competitions have reading fees, sometimes those fees are the only ways readers get paid. Most competitions with reading fees offer prizes, some even offer feedback. At the very least, entering competitions should mean someone is reading your work. That someone could become a useful connection in the future. Judges, agents, editors, writers and other publishing staff may be reading your work. Whether you win or not, the reader may consider you for future opportunities. So even if you don't win, maybe you don't lose.

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## *Building Community, One Story at a Time*

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### **GET IN TOUCH**

Have news to share? Let us know and we will share it either via Twitter, Facebook or email.

Twitter: @NWLitSalon

Facebook: North West Literary Salon

Email: [northwestliterarysalon@gmail.com](mailto:northwestliterarysalon@gmail.com)

Thanks for reading,

*Yvonne and Naomi, North West Literary Arts*