



CLUBHOUSE MAGAZINE

Writer's Guidelines

Focus on the Family *Clubhouse* readers are 8- to 12-year-old boys and girls who desire to know more about God and the Bible. Their parents (who typically pay for the membership) want wholesome, educational material with Scriptural or moral insight. The kids want excitement, adventure, action, humor or mystery. Your job as a writer is to please both the parent and child with each article.

Fiction needs:

- * Humor with a point (500 words)
- * Historical fiction featuring great Christians or Christians who lived during great times (900 or 1,600 words depending on the depth of story)
- * Contemporary, multicultural/exotic settings (1,600 words)
- * Fantasy or Sci-Fi, avoiding graphic descriptions of evil creatures and sorcery (1,600 words)
- * Mystery stories (1,600 words)
- * Choose-your-own adventure stories (1,600-1800 words)

Fiction flops:

- * Contemporary, middle-class family settings (existing authors meet this need)
- * Poems (not printed)
- * Stories dealing with boy-girl relationships
- * Preachy sounding stories where parents solve all the problems

Nonfiction needs (all nonfiction should fall between 800-1,000 words):

- * Fun-filled fact essays (12 to 18 off-the-wall facts on a certain subject or theme)
- * Interviews with noteworthy Christians or Christians who experienced noteworthy events
- * Personality features of ordinary kids doing extraordinary things
- * Activity theme pages with 4 to 7 fun things for kids to do
- * Short, humorous how-to stories with a point (how to get good grades, how to be a good friend)

- * Quizzes (multiple choice or true or false) that teach a biblical concept or character trait
- * Fact stories from a Christian worldview that talk about apologetics, biblical archeology or Christian value (i.e. the sanctity of life, living a moral life, etc.)
- * Short news articles adapted to bring out a biblical lesson in a fun or humorous way (300 words)

Nonfiction flops:

- * Bible stories without a unique format or overt visual appeal
- * Information-only science or educational articles
- * Biographies told encyclopedia or textbook-style

PAYMENT:

- * Generally 15 to 25 cents a word
- * \$200 on up for feature-length fiction stories
- * \$150 on up for nonfiction stories

SUBMISSIONS:

All manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, on one-side only of 8 1/2" by 11" paper. The author's name, address, phone number and an approximate word count should appear on the first page.

We accept completed manuscripts only; no query letters. Material will not be returned unless a self-addressed envelope with adequate postage is included. Seasonal material should be sent at least eight months in advance.

Address all submissions to: Joanna Lutz
 Clubhouse Assistant Editor
 Focus on the Family
 8605 Explorer Drive
 Colorado Springs, CO 80920

We respond to manuscripts within eight weeks.

For a sample issue, send your request (along with \$2 and SASE to Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80955 or call 1-800-232-6459. Requests are filled within 7-10 days.