



Spokeout magazine is pleased to announce its first Creative Writing Competition, which is being run in partnership with the Irish Writers' Centre as part of the Irish Wheelchair Association's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

The aim of the competition is to encourage and support writers with disabilities, or those with close experience of disability. We know there are many of you out there! Whether your passion is for prose or poetry, we would love to read, and possibly publish, your work.

Entrants are invited to submit an original and unpublished piece of creative writing. The piece should fall into one of three categories:

Fiction	One short story not more than 2,500 words in length
Autobiographical non-fiction	One piece not more than 2,500 words in length
Poetry	1-4 poems (each poem should not exceed 50 lines)



There is no restriction as to the theme or subject matter of your entry, simply run with whatever moves or inspires you!

The final round of judging will be carried out by author and journalist Michael J Farrell. A total of fifteen winners will be chosen as follows:

A first-prize winner who will receive: a cash prize of €250; an invitation to a weekend Writers' Workshop (meals & accommodation included), organised by the Irish Writers' Centre and tutored by Michael J Farrell, on June 18th & 19th at Cuisle Holiday Centre, Co. Roscommon; and an invitation to the prize-giving at IWA's Annual Conference Gala Dinner on May 22nd. The winning entry will be published in the Summer edition of Spokeout.

Two runners-up/second-prize winners who will receive: a cash prize of €100 each; an invitation to the Writers' Workshop (meals & accommodation included), at Cuisle Holiday Centre; and an invitation to the prize-giving at IWA's Annual Conference Gala Dinner on May 22nd. These entries will be published in Spokeout during 2010.

12 further runners-up who will be invited to attend the Writers' Workshop (meals & accommodation included) at Cuisle. Entries from these runners-up may be selected for publication in subsequent issues of Spokeout.

Before entering, please take the time to read carefully the terms and conditions set out overleaf. And, finally, we wish you luck, inspiration and guts! We look forward to seeing the fruits of your labour!

ON GETTING DOWN TO WRITING...



And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.

Sylvia Plath, American poet, novelist, children's author, and short story author



...Procrastination is the default mode of all writers who, while yearning to write, generally need a metaphorical Colt 45 pressed to their temple before overcoming stage fright and actually getting down to it.

Dermot Bolger, Irish writer (quote from his article 'Getting down to writing business', featured in The Irish Times on 21st August, 2009)



If you're daunted in the face of a poem or story, remember how we started with grunting, then found words, put them on cave walls, on papyrus, on to printing press and text message. There is no wrong way, not even grunting. But sometimes the words echo, and that's a blast.

Michael J Farrell, Irish writer and tutor of the IWA 50th Anniversary Creative Writing Competition Writers' Workshop



Michael J Farrell spent nearly a quarter-century in journalism in the USA. He has edited various books and publications and published an award-winning novel Papabile in 1998. A short story was published in The Faber Book of Best New Irish Short Stories, 2006-07. His short story collection Life in the Universe was published in May by the Stinging Fly Press. Creative Commotion: The Everyman/Aquarius Anthology, 1968-1974, which he edited, was published by the Liffey Press in June 2009.

ENTRY FORM

(Block capitals please)

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Category: (please tick one only)

- Fiction
 Autobiographical non-fiction
 Poetry

Exact word count

This is an original work and has not been previously published, printed or placed in a competition.

I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this competition.

Signed

Date:

This entry form is available online at www.iwa.ie

**Closing date for receipt of entries is
5pm Wednesday, 31st March 2010**

If you have queries in relation to the competition,
email: creativewriting@iwa.ie or telephone 01 818 6485
(Colette Molloy). No entries will be accepted via email.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The IWA 50th Anniversary Creative Writing Competition is open to members of the Irish Wheelchair Association. NB: Anyone with a physical disability can join the Irish Wheelchair Association free-of-charge by simply filling in a membership form, available at www.iwa.ie

Entrants are invited to submit an original piece of creative writing. The piece can fall into one of three categories:

- Fiction – one short story not more than 2,500 words in length
- Autobiographical non-fiction - again not more than 2,500 words in length
- Poetry – 1-4 poems (each poem should not exceed 50 lines)

The final winners will be selected from all categories on the basis of merit.

Not more than one entry should be submitted by any individual.

There is no entry fee.

There is no age limit.

All entries must be sent by post to:
IWA 50th Anniversary Creative Writing Competition,
Irish Wheelchair Association,
Blackheath Drive,
Clontarf, Dublin 3
by 5pm Wednesday 31st March.

All entries should be typed on A4 paper.

The entrant's details are to be provided only on this official entry form. The entry form should be paper clipped to the piece of creative writing. Please ensure that your name does not appear anywhere in your piece of creative writing. This is to ensure fairness in the judging process.

Pages should be clearly numbered and the title of the piece should appear on each page.

Please do not bind, tape or staple your entry. Use paper clips only.

The organisers regret that work cannot be returned, so please make a copy of your entry.