

The People's Friend

Poetry

ALTHOUGH poetry isn't as big a part of the magazine as our fiction, it's still an essential component and one that we're just as passionate about as our short stories and serials. Poetry appears regularly in our weekly magazine, with a generous handful going into each of our Specials, Annuals and also The Fireside and Friendship Books which we produce.

There are no hard and fast rules to writing poetry for us, but we're unlikely to have room for more than thirty lines of text so it's best to make that an absolute maximum. It's also a good idea not to send more than two or three at a time. We'll get a good idea of whether your style will work for us from those.

If you are sending in your poem for our "Between Friends" page, then we ask that you don't exceed sixteen lines. Clearly mark your envelope "Between Friends", too, so we know that's what it's intended for.

On the whole, we prefer verse to rhyme and scan as naturally as possible – although we make occasional concessions to other styles if the content is strong enough.

As with the fiction, the best way to get a sense of our style is to read the magazine for a few weeks running. This way you'll become familiar with the

kind of descriptive, accessible and uplifting poetry that we go for. It can be humorous or serious, about anything from nature to daily life, as long as its message is at heart an optimistic one.

Do bear in mind that we receive a great deal of correspondence here at the "Friend", so once you have submitted a poem it may take us some time to get back to you. We do read everything that comes in, but we would be grateful for your patience when waiting for our decision.

Due to the unpredictable nature of the space available for poetry, we're not able to purchase poems very far in advance of their publication. New contributors also have to be registered on our system, so you will be notified of our intention to use your work shortly after we have made our decision. We will keep in touch with you throughout the process, though. ■

When sending in your poetry, please do so addressed to:

**"The Poetry Editor" or
"Between Friends" at
"The People's Friend",
D.C. Thomson & Co., Ltd.,
80 Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 8SL.**

Don't forget to include a stamped, addressed envelope so we can return your work to you. Make sure you keep a copy of your poems, just in case the worst should happen and they go astray.

