

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 twenty 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 to be included in the weekly magazine or Special, then we ask that your poem is a minimum of twelve lines and a maximum of sixteen.

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 regularly. 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.

We're unable to purchase poems for stock – they are always purchased with a specific issue date in mind and upon our Editor's approval. 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. ■



SUBMITTING YOUR POETRY - 8 GOLDEN RULES

- 1** Submissions from unpublished poets are welcome by email. We no longer accept postal submissions.
- 2** Poetry must be submitted as a Word document, with the file extension .doc or .docx – no other file type can be considered.
- 3** Please use the title of your poem as the file name.
- 4** The subject name of the email – in the 'Subject' line – must be exactly the same as the file name.
- 5** Please do not send more than one poem per email and no more than three separate email submissions at a time. This is because our system may identify multiple emails as spam.
- 6** The address to email your submission to is: friendpoetry@dctmedia.co.uk
- 7** You'll receive an automatic response to let you know we have received your poetry. If you don't receive a response, your submission has not been received.
- 8** Please note that it may take some time for us to let you know our decision. We ask you not to contact us with queries unless it's been more than 12 weeks since you submitted your poem to us.