

Appearing in *Mslexia* is one of the best ways onto the publishing ladder. Women writers are invited to submit material on one of our themes, which change every quarter (see below); or to send work on any subject for our many other submission slots. For regular updates to these guidelines, visit [mslexia.co.uk/submit](http://mslexia.co.uk/submit). If you have any questions, please email [postbag@mslexia.co.uk](mailto:postbag@mslexia.co.uk), or call the office on **0191 204 8860**.

## Competitions

### NOVEL COMPETITION

For previously unpublished women novelists, this competition is open to women of any nationality from any country, and welcomes 5,000 word extracts of completed, unpublished novels of at least 50,000 words in length (not including the title). Novels must be for adult or young adult readers; non-fiction or fiction for children under 13 is not eligible.

**Judges:** novelist Philippa Gregory; literary agent Sarah Such; and literary journalist and editor Alex Clark.

**Prize:** £5,000. The winner and four finalists will receive manuscript feedback, and introductions to agents and editors.

**Entry fee:** £25 per novel extract

**CLOSING DATE:** 18 SEPTEMBER 2017

## Showcase - themed writing

Twice annually we ask for themed poetry and prose submissions for the Showcase (previously New Writing) section of the magazine. Winners are selected by our Guest Editors (in the past these have included Julia Blackburn, Nicci Gerrard, Pascale Petit, Rachel Cusk and Sarah Dunant) and are published in the magazine.

### Issue 76: YESTERYEAR

It's often said that the past is another country. For this theme we invite you to take your imagination on a journey to history or prehistory and tell us about the poignant, tragic or amazing people and events you discovered there.

**CLOSING DATE:** 4 September 2017

### Issue 77: BEWITCHED

For this theme we're look for stories and poems with a mythical, mystical or paranormal aspect to them. So channel your inner Rowling and Pullman and open the door to daemons, dungeons and dragons.

**CLOSING DATE:** 4 December 2017

## Features

We also always welcome ideas for one-off features, and entries are considered on a rolling basis. Send us 200-word proposal, plus a brief CV and a published or unpublished example of your writing.



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*Mslexia* welcomes previously unpublished submissions from women writers for every part of the magazine. For more information including what we pay and up-to-date deadlines, plus competitions, workshops and *Mslexia* news visit [mslexia.co.uk/submit](http://mslexia.co.uk/submit), phone **0191 204 8860** or email [postbag@mslexia.co.uk](mailto:postbag@mslexia.co.uk). Please note if submissions do not fit in with our current themes they cannot be considered for publication.

Send submissions to [submissions@mslexia.co.uk](mailto:submissions@mslexia.co.uk) or **Mslexia, PO Box 656, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1PZ**

## *For subscribers only*

**Flash genre** A complete narrative nugget of fantasy, romance, sci-fi, crime or horror (max. 300 words).

**Poetry challenge:** TBA

**Petits fours** Four lines that don't have to rhyme, based on a topic set in the monthly *Mslexia* subscriber newsletter *little ms*.

**Flash Fiction** 100 words piece inspired by an image in the *Mslexia* monthly newsletter *little ms*.

*If you don't already receive our monthly e-newsletter little ms – packed full of writing inspiration and lively literary debate – all you have to do is subscribe to Mslexia. For more info visit [mslexia.co.uk](http://mslexia.co.uk) or call us 0191 204 8860.*

## *Other submissions*

**Confession** A memoir piece about something you were (or are now, in retrospect) ashamed of (max 300 words).

**H is for...** A piece of creative nonfiction inspired by a single alphabet prompt (e.g. H is for Hawk) Current letter: G. Max 300 words.

**First page surgery** Send us the title and first page of your novel (any genre, up to 300 words). Our guest industry expert will comment, in the magazine, about how might it be changed to catch an agent's or editor's eye. (Use a pen name if you're feeling shy.) [Unpaid.]

**Read-aloud story rhymes** Many picture books for children have, at their heart, a story narrated in the form of a short rhyming text. Send us your rhyming texts of up to 200 words that tell a story to read aloud to a small child.

**Advice to my younger self** Written in the second person, up to 150 words of advice you'd like to give to your younger self (that might benefit fellow *Mslexics* today), based on your later experience of writing and creativity.

**Pitch perfect** Send us a pitch (pithy description – 100 words max) for a project you're planning to submit to an agent, editor or producer. The project might be a memoir, biography, fiction, theatre or screenplay. Our guest industry expert will suggest ways to make it spark the interest of the people you need to impress. (Use a pen name if you're feeling shy.) [Unpaid]

**Life sentence** One sentence only, please, and no more than 25 words, describing one interesting/poignant/bizarre/uplifting thing that's happened in your writing life recently. [Unpaid]

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## Submitting your work

Please use the online submissions form if possible - but you can send all *other submissions* by post or by email, wherever you are in the world. If emailing, please put 'Hindsight', 'First page surgery', etc. in the subject line, as appropriate, and send to [submissions@mslexia.co.uk](mailto:submissions@mslexia.co.uk). If you're submitting work to multiple topics, (e.g. life sentence and pitch perfect) please send each one in a separate email.

Deadline for possible inclusion in the December issue (76): **9 October 2017**

## Payment

We usually pay **£25** for each piece published in *Msllexia* (except for 'Life sentences'; 'Pitch perfect' and 'First-page surgeries', where you'll receive feedback on your work; and 'Self-publishing survivors', which is an interview slot).

## Response times

We aim to email a response within three months of any deadline. We do not return hard copies of your work, or send copies of competition results. Please make sure you include your land address, telephone number and email address with your submissions so that we can process it.