

Competition Topics & Criteria For 2024

Website Link: www.nzchristianwriters.org/competitions/

COMPETITION COORDINATOR – DEBBIE McDERMOTT

JUDGES

| LEVEL 1 | LEVEL 2 | | LEVEL 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Debbie McDermott | Lesley Edgeler | Shirley Jamieson | Julia Martin |

Which Level Do I enter?

- Level 1:** For new members and all other members who haven't competed enough to be promoted to Level 2. Age limit: 16 years old or over.
- Level 2:** For members who have been promoted from Level 1 by the judges. Age limit: 16 years old or over.
- Level 3:** For members who have been promoted from Level 2 by the judges, plus members on the Honours List. Age limit: 16 years old or over.

Entries are to be the sole work of the writer and no collaboration is allowed.

If you're not sure what Level you are on, please contact the Competition Coordinator, Debbie McDermott, at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

Formatting and Entry Guidelines and Criteria

Font: Arial, 10 pt **Heading:** Bold Title Case, 18 pt **Line spacing:** Multiple 1.2

Paragraph Spacing: 6 pt **Indentation:** None **Alignment:** Justified

Wordcount: Do NOT include titles, footnotes or bibliographies in the wordcount (unless informed otherwise) and ensure main content is no more than 5% above or below the wordcount. Maximum wordcounts must not be exceeded at all.

Send a photo of yourself for publishing purposes.

EMAILING YOUR ENTRY

Your entry should be emailed to the competition judge as a Microsoft or Open Office Word document attachment, complete with word count, your name and your locality, by the 1st of the month prior to the magazine's publication date. Only one entry per entrant is allowed in any given issue of the magazine.

Prizes and Promotion Criteria

Level 1 contestants who achieve overall 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in the first three competitions of the year will be promoted to Level 2. Level 2 contestants who achieve overall 1st or 2nd place in the first three competitions of the year will be promoted to Level 3. Level 3 contestants who achieve overall 1st, 2nd or 3rd place at least three times across two consecutive years or six-month periods will be promoted to the Honours List. At the end of the first three competitions of the year, all contestants go back to zero points for the final three competitions of the year and the process of working towards being promoted to the next level begins again. There will be a mid-year and end-of-year awarding of certificates and prizes in the form of gift vouchers to overall Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 winners. To be promoted to Level 2 or 3, contestants must receive points at least three times on their current Level. The judges also require regular entries plus improved writing.

Topics

LEVEL ONE Judge – Debbie McDermott

FEBRUARY – due 1 January

In the Bible, Jesus is referred to as a lamb and as a lion (e.g. Revelation 5:5 and 22:3). Research this topic, then write an essay on both aspects—what they signify and what they mean to you. Bible references and quotations should comprise no more than 25% of total content. Include a brief bibliography. (500 words, excluding bibliography)

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

APRIL – due 1 March

Beginning with a relevant Bible verse, write an inspiring devotional piece on the topic of Easter. Ensure you include a short testimony (yours, or someone else's with their permission) and conclude the devotion with a short prayer. (350 words)

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

JUNE – due 1 May

Beginning with the words 'The clock struck midnight...', write a story that is full of mystery and keeps your reader sitting on the edge of their seat until the final sentence when all is revealed. (500 words)

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

AUGUST – due 1 July

Select a poem with a biblical theme and write a story based on the poem's main message. Your story must be in prose. Give it whatever title you like, but your subtitle must be: 'Based on the poem [title of poem] by [name of poet]'. A copy of the poem must also be provided so the judge can compare it with your story. (450 words, story only)

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

OCTOBER – due 1 September

Think about someone who influenced your life when you were a child growing up or as an adult. In what way did they encourage and inspire you to become the person you are today? (400 words)

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

DECEMBER – due 1 November

Using Luke 14:13 as your key point of reference, write a true or fictional story on inviting the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind to a Christmas banquet and describe what effect it has on them. Use fictional names if the story is based on fact. (450 words)

Email entry to Debbie McDermott at level1@nzchristianwriters.org

LEVEL TWO Judges – Lesley Edgeler and Shirley Jamieson

FEBRUARY – due 1 January

Describe an interesting place you have visited on holiday in New Zealand. Show the reader the fun or adventure you had so that others will plan to visit the site as well. Include a photo. (400 words)

Email entry to Shirley Jamieson at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

APRIL – due 1 March

Choose a famous quotation to include at the end of a short story narrated by the antagonist to a group of imaginary secondary school students. You must mention the person who originated the quotation. (350 words)

Email entry to Lesley Edgeler at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

JUNE – due 1 May

Residents in rest homes often miss owning a pet. Research the trained visitor dog service in New Zealand, then tell a story of the difference that visits make to an imaginary elderly person's life. (500 words)

Email entry to Shirley Jamieson at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

AUGUST – due 1 July

Write an essay on the topic of Increasing Difficulties for the Christian in our Modern Western Society. Include a true example of Christian suffering. (500 words)

Email entry to Lesley Edgeler at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

OCTOBER – due 1 September

Write a recipe for a happy life based on Scripture, to be printed on a tea towel to be manufactured and sold to the public. Include scriptural ingredients and back-up methods to make the recipe successful. (300 words)

Email entry to Lesley Edgeler at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

DECEMBER – due 1 November

Write an article by one of the shepherds in Luke 2:8-20 for the imaginary Bethlehem Times. Include fictional names for the shepherds and tell of their reaction to seeing baby Jesus, but be factual to the Biblical account itself. (350 words)

Email entry to Shirley Jamieson at level2@nzchristianwriters.org

LEVEL 3 Judge – Julia Martin

FEBRUARY – due 1 January

Write a new National Anthem for New Zealand in modern language while still retaining a Christian influence. (4 verses maximum)

Email entry to Julia Martin at level3@nzchristianwriters.org

APRIL – due 1 March

Choose a Bible character mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 (sometimes referred to as God's Hall of Faith or Hall of Heroes), and in a monologue reveal how your character came to faith in God and how it impacted his or her life. (400 words)

Email entry to Julia Martin at level3@nzchristianwriters.org

JUNE – due 1 May

Choose one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Imagine you are there and describe your experience in an article suitable for a travel magazine. (350 words)

Email entry to Julia Martin at level3@nzchristianwriters.org

AUGUST – due 1 July

King Solomon wrote: 'Better one hand with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind' (Ecclesiastes 4:6 NIV). Explain what you think he meant and if this statement has any relevance to our modern society. (250 words)

Email entry to Julia Martin at level3@nzchristianwriters.org

OCTOBER – due 1 September

'Artificial Intelligence presents benefits and dangers for our world today'. In a secular article, discuss both sides of this comment. (400 words maximum, excluding references if used.)

Email entry to Julia Martin at level3@nzchristianwriters.org

DECEMBER – due 1 November

You are concerned about the eternal destination of some of your non-Christian friends and family members. Compose an email to send to each of them outlining the good news of the gospel and their need of a Saviour. Use simple language and a gracious approach. (300 words)

Email entry to Julia Martin at level3@nzchristianwriters.org