

The Write Stuff

<https://www.helensvalewritersgroup.org>

Monthly Newsletter of the Helensvale Writers Group – September 2026

This month's speakers: You. 'Poet's Corner'

It is not too late: I might not have advertised this correctly, but in any case: if you have written a poem (any poem – bushpoetry, classic, modern, humorous, sad, music lyrics, opera libretto – whatever), bring it with you! Be prepared to recite it to the group, then elaborate on it (what motivated you, what feelings you want to provoke etc). One of our newer members, Margaret Wright, is quite expert in this field of our art. Bet you will learn something! And I bet, you certainly will have fun!



Last month it was all about selling and learning:



Stacey King: Alternatives to selling on Amazon-

Our resident treasure trove on everything about writing, marketing and selling your creations again came up with material we hadn't come across before.

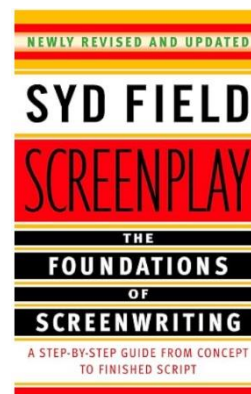
For example: Have you ever heard of **Books.by**? (BTW, don't be misled by the domain extension .by (Belorussia) – they are Aussie - based in Melbourne!). They'll sell your locally published book internationally. Printing is done in Australia.

Ingram Sparks: Australian company (you'll need an ABN), but your work will be available on our libraries). is

After morning tea, international film director and script writer **Josh Hale** took the stage. Did you know that Josh won the 'Best Feature Film' at the Gold Coast Film Festival? And yes, he wrote the script, directed it... This time, his major theme was on **Script Writing**. And yes, it IS different!

Have you ever heard the expression "the book is better than the movie?" That's because in a book, YOUR imagination is employed. In a movie, the DIRECTOR's imagination is deployed. Just one page is required for one minute of screenplay.

One of the best ways to appreciate the art of script writing: navigate to the 'Final Draft' website: <https://www.finaldraft.com/>. There you will find a plethora of examples, learning materials on all aspects from initial conception all the way to having your name flimmering in the credits of a blockbuster! You can also download the script (or parts thereof) of famous movies. Final Draft produces software that will



greatly assist you, not only to write, but to avoid silly errors such as mixing up your character's names.

I asked Josh what would be the 'must have' reference book for a screenwriter: Without hesitation: [‘Screenplay’ by Syd Field](#). “It’s by my side constantly when I work on a script”, he said. There you are: this is where you start.

1000 Words Competition – Q3, 2026:

Submissions close on 10th September. That is this coming Thursday! The theme: ‘The Face at the Window’. Genre: it’s OPEN – take your pick, from crime to romance, historical fiction, non-fiction, chick-lit, children’s stories, fantasy. Anything!

The usual rules apply: 1000 words maximum (including title), no pictures, no Artificial Intelligence (we’ll test).

Deadline is Thursday, 10th September 2026 (one week before our September meeting), and no late entries will be accepted. Please submit in **MS Word or Google Doc format**, NOT PDF, to helensvalewriters@gmail.com

The **judging** will again be done by an independent, professional editor.

Note: Copyright remains with the author. This is a private, group-internal competition, and thus does not preclude you from submitting your story to any open competition, nor, as our end-of-year compilation cannot be purchased on the market, can it be considered as “previously published”.



Upcoming Writers Competitions

- OK, so you need some time: Here is one that closes in a few months. Why not aim for the top: [The Long List for the Booker Prize](#) has just been announced. “**You’re kidding me!**” I hear you yell out. But, according to their website, entries are “Tonally diverse, the books abound with humour and heartbreak, satire and surreality. That’s you, isn’t it? And, if I recall correctly, **three of this year’s long list authors are first time entrants**.”
- The [The Hope Prize 2026](#): This is now open. A **global** short story competition open to writers from **anywhere in the world**. Maximum 5000 words. **\$13,000 prize money!** Deadline: 31/10/26. Make sure you read the guidelines.
- There are another 280 (last time I looked) competitions on reedsy.com – There must be one or two that suit you!

Can you improve on that?

*Then, for the first time in my life, I was really aware of another person’s body, of another person’s smell. We had our arms around each other. It was like holding in my hand some rare, exhausted, nearly doomed bird which I had miraculously happened to find. I was very frightened, I am sure he was frightened too, and we shut our eyes. To remember it so clearly, so painfully tonight tells me that I have never for a n instant truly forgotten it. I felt in myself now a faint, dradful stirring of what so overwhelmingly stirred in me then. Great thirsty heat, and trembling, and tenderness so painful I thought my heart would burst. But out of this astounding intolerable pain came joy, we gave each other joy that night. It seemed, then, that a lifetime would not be long enough for me to act with Joe the act of love. **James Baldwin – Giovanni’s Room***

Be there on **Thursday, 17th September. Usual time 10:00 am.**
Helensvale Library, downstairs meeting room. Please be a little bit early, so we can start on time.

Best wishes,
Franz Huber
Helensvale Writers Group
[helensvalewriters@ gmail.com](mailto:helensvalewriters@gmail.com)

(Please note: I'm currently "out of range", so my usual phone number will not be answered), but I'm monitoring my emails.



Only people who are familiar with the French language will get this one....

To kill a French Vampire, you need to drive a baguette through his heart. Sounds easy, but the process could be painstaking.

I've always preferred the English spelling of "diarrhea", which is "diarrhoea" because it really looks like you've lost control of your vowels.

