

## Unit I

### 1. So You Want to Be a Writer

*You're on your way.* Writing may be fun, but it's also tough. It requires determination and patience and other hard stuff. Examine the necessary skills.

### 2. Reasons for Writing

*What drives you?* There are as many reasons to write as there are writers. Determine whether what you write touches your readers as deeply as it does you. Study why writers write—and why you write.

### 3. The Right Words at the Right Time

*You've got something to say, but how should you say it?* Choosing the right words depends on your audience. Learn to know your readers—then write for them.

### 4. Writing for School

*Write for your audience—yes, even teachers.* Writing for school is similar to professional writing in that you need to consider your audience. Determine what your teachers expect and learn to write for them.

### 5. Your Personal Writing Sample

*Discover who you are as a writer.* Just as what you wear says something about you, so does what you write. Learn different writing styles—and develop yours.

### 6. A Perfect Couple: Reading and Writing

*You can't write well if you don't read.* To be a good writer, you need to read good writing. Learn what kinds of reading will improve your writing.

### 7. Keeping a Reading and Writing Log

*Stay organized and on track.* Professional writers are focused and organized—in the little things as well as the big. Learn to keep a writing log.

### 8. Variety is the Spice of Writing

*Fill your writing with diversity.* Your readers want creativity in word choice, sentence structure, punctuation, and even the format of your article or story. Learn to make yours exciting.

### 9. Writing a Technical or Explanatory Paper

*Write clearly and to-the-point.* Learn to explain complex procedures without boring your reader.

### 10. The Power of Story

*Write captivating stories.* Stories not only entertain, but they also broaden people's horizons, drawing them into different cultures and time periods. But stories can also change lives. Learn to effectively use the power of story.

## Unit II

### 11. Reading to Help your Writing

*Learn from the best.* Learning to appreciate good writing and to recognize how a writer builds a story—will help you become a better writer. Read with an investigative eye and apply great authors' techniques to your writing.

### 12. Writing a Personal Narrative

*What's your story?* Everyone has at least one good story from his or her life. That's why a personal narrative is a great place to start.

### 13. Writing to Convince

*Write persuasively.* how can you convince someone else to consider a new thought or follow a new course of action? Learn to inspire those who agree with you and challenge those who don't.

### 14. Learning to Self-edit

*Make your work the best it can be.* It's healthy to be able to look at your writing as an outsider—with objectivity. Every piece of writing, including yours, can and should be improved. Learn to ruthlessly self-edit to make your work shine.

### 15. Building Blocks of Nonfiction

*Study the essential elements.* From devotionals and reviews to essays and newswriting, opportunities abound. Learn to find your niche, sell yourself, and spread your message.

### 16. The Power of Research

*Grow your researching skills.* If you want to be taken seriously, make your writing as reliable as possible. That means writing with accuracy. Learn to research the right way—and to effectively use what you learn.

### 17. Giving Your Writing Credibility

*Be legitimate.* As a teen writer, you may be perceived as limited in your expertise and experience. Learn to use your experiences to establish credibility and connect readers with God .

### 18. The Power of Story in Nonfiction

*Build a powerful true story.* Stories have beginnings, middles, and ends—and not just in fiction. Learn to connect to readers by illustrating your ideas with stories, and break down barriers to understanding.

### 19. Truth or Consequences: Plagiarism

*Don't steal other's words.* It's so easy these days to electronically share people's intellectual property (books, articles, music, movies, photos) that it's tempting to see it all as community property. But, using someone else's words, without giving proper credit, is stealing. Learn to be responsible and attribute quotes.

### 20. How Reviews Can Make You a Better Writer

*Become a critic of others' work—and your own.* Writing reviews offers publishing experience and helps you see holes in someone else's writing—even your own. Learn to gain insight and expertise from reading and writing reviews.

### Unit III

#### 21. Iambic What? Basic Elements of Poetry, Part 1

*Roses are red, violets are blue...* Examine poetry—writing that stirs the imagination and often has a rhythmic pattern. Dissect poems to learn about form and structure.

#### 22. Iambic What? Basic Elements of Poetry, Part 2

*My love is like a red, red rose...* Once you understand poetry's forms, you can make your words leap off the page by using imagery to create vivid word pictures. Learn to use figurative language and improve your writing.

#### 23. Roses Aren't Always Red: Poetry Analysis

*Read with a critical eye.* Understanding rhyme, rhythm, and figurative language helps you analyze poetry, but journalistic inquiry can also help you get to a poem's meaning. Learn to piece together the nuances of poems to understand and appreciate them.

#### 24. Whose Glasses? Point of View

*Perspective makes all the difference.* Of the characters in your short story or novel, who is best to narrate it? Your choice determines your story's shape and feel, because each character will see your story's events differently. Learn to choose the best point of view.

#### 25. Creating Believable Characters

*Build characters that are full of life.* Strong characters have more than one dimension. They have good qualities and weaknesses, just as real people do. Learn to craft authentic characters.

#### 26. He Said, She Said: Creating Dialogue

*It's more than just a conversation.* Dialogue, two or more people talking together, is one of the strongest tools you can use to create your story. Learn to use dialogue to establish conflict, hook the reader, move the plot, increase tension, and more.

### 27. The Plot Thickens: Story Structure

*Give your story a sturdy frame.* Your story's plot needs structure. This involves specific events that influence the outcome. It's not as hard to put together as it might seem. Learn to construct a cohesive story.

### 28. Getting to Know You: Interviewing and Writing a Profile

*Transform a conversation into a written work.* Interviewing is a valuable skill. You may need to speak with an expert for newswriting, research papers, essays, nonfiction books, or even short stories and novels. Learn to conduct effective interviews that can add to your written work.

### 29. Contests and Compilations

*Competition is a good thing.* If you're writing just for yourself or for school, you may struggle to find the motivation to grow. Learn why and how to enter writing competitions and write for compilations.

### 30. Where Does Your Idea Fit?

*Coming up with an idea is only half the battle.* You may have notebooks filled with ideas, or they may be hard to come by, but all writers face the same challenge. Which are worth pursuing? Learn to choose ideas that yield the best stories.

## Unit IV

### 31. The Welcoming World of Magazines

*Give yourself an edge in the periodical world.* Thousands of magazines (and ezines) are published every year. Many need freelance writers. Learn to find markets and how to submit to them.

### 32. Writing an Effective Query Letter

*Convince editors to publish your work.* Writing a magazine article is the second of a two-step process. The first is garnering interest in it. You have to seek markets, convince editors your article will meet their readers' needs, and then work with them to fine-tune your work. Query letters open the doors. Learn to create ones that sing.

### 33. The Writer's Palette

*Survey your choice of literary techniques.* Writing is as much art as craft. As painters choose colors to breathe life into every brush stroke, writers choose tools to enliven their word pictures. Learn about these tools.

### 34. The Writer's Workout

*Prevent creative muscle cramps.* Your body's muscles need to be stretched before they can effectively do their jobs. The same is true of your writing muscles—including your imagination. Learn writing exercises that will get your creative juices flowing.

### 35. The Play's the Thing: Reading and Writing Drama

*Break a leg!* Any well-crafted play, like any well-crafted story, has a theme, plot, setting, and characters. The difference is format. Learn to format a script to properly indicate dialogue, setting, and stage directions.

### 36. Forensics

*Write persuasively.* The art of forensics gives writers opportunities to display skills in research, defense of opinion, presentation of facts, and persuasion. Learn to write monologues, speeches, and more.

### 37. So You Want to Write a Book?

*Understand how publishing works.* If you've dreamed of writing a book, you're not alone. Learn how the publishing industry works and strategies to get published.

### 38. Writing a Solid Book Proposal

*Get your foot in the door.* The stakes are high when you try to sell your book to a publisher. Good writing alone isn't enough. Learn to craft a winning book proposal.

### 39. Writers on Writing

*Listen to the wisdom of successful writers.* In this lesson, well-known Christian writers share their thoughts. Learn tips from those who know.

# Squire

## Lesson Descriptions

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JERRY B. JENKINS  
CHRISTIAN  
WRITERS  
G U I L D

### 40. Known by Our Words

*Hold yourself to the highest standard.* With a word, God spoke the universe into existence. Words have power—including yours. Be sure your words align with the word of God. Learn to write carefully and ethically.

### Register Now

Apply online at [www.christianwritersguild.com/squire/](http://www.christianwritersguild.com/squire/)

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