email: friend@ldschurch.org • phone: 801.240.2210 / 1.800.453.3860, ext. 22210 • fax: 801.240.2270











Thanks for your interest in contributing to the *Friend*. Here's a list of story needs as well as some sample work. Please remember that **stories must be based on actual events** and should usually involve main characters between three and twelve years of age. If you'd like to be compensated, send us a query letter first. If you feel like you can't write a polished story, send a summary of the story and member of our staff will be happy to help flesh it out. Additional specifics are included with the story samples.

### As of summer 2017, we especially need stories that feature children...

- Solving their own problems using gospel principles
- Grappling with sensitive issues or challenging situations in an authentic way
- Standing up for what's right, even when immediate consequences aren't happy ones
- Showing kindness and being a good example (especially in photo story format, like the Friends with Heart series from 2017)
- From non-Caucasian cultural and ethnic groups, and/or countries outside of the U.S.
- Who are boys
- In various family situations

### Example topics include...

- Choosing the right
- Coping with mental health issues in self or others
- Finding answers from the right sources
- Gaining a testimony of Jesus Christ
- Getting along with and appreciating those who are different
- Girl/boy relationships
- How to deal with scary events
- "If I'm being good, why are bad things happening?"

- Language
- Media, especially girls or boys avoiding and dealing with pornography
- Modesty
- Peer pressure
- Repentance as a daily gift that helps us find happiness
- Sibling and family relationships
- The Sabbath day
- The sacrament
- Word of Wisdom

We already have lots of stories about answered prayers, especially with lost items. However, we could use stories about children who experience an answer to prayer that wasn't what they wanted, deal with a seemingly unanswered prayer, pray for courage or strength, or receive comfort and direction through prayer.

#### Other types of content

In addition to manuscripts for illustrated stories, we accept the following:

<u>Photo Story</u>: A 400-word photo story about a child who shows love to others through kindness or service. Includes 6–10 professional-quality high-resolution photos. For an example of the format, see the 2016 Friends Who Stand Tall series or the 2017 Friends with Heart series. Must be queried in advance.

<u>Activities:</u> Family- and gospel-oriented puzzles and games. We also welcome simple recipes and craft projects that appeal to children.

Music: We occasionally publish short songs about gospel subjects.

<u>Children's Submissions</u>: In "Friends by Mail," children share their feelings about the magazine. "Show and Tell" submissions include art, poetry, and experiences (50–100 words) about children following the example of Jesus Christ. "Written by You" stories (300 words) are children's experiences written by children themselves. All children's submissions should include the child's photo, age, and address, and MUST include the signed parental permission slip found on page 39 of the magazine. The *Friend* does not pay for children's contributions. Due to the number received, they cannot all be published, nor can they be returned.

<u>Poetry and Action Rhymes:</u> Easy-to-illustrate poems with catchy cadences, consistent meter, and child-friendly subjects. Poems should convey a sense of joy and reflect gospel teachings. We especially need brief poems, including action rhymes, for preschoolers.

<u>Friend Junior Stories:</u> We need short, very simple stories that could be used as an early-reader or rebus story in the *Friend Junior* section.

## Submitting your work

<u>Mail</u>: Please print your submission double-spaced on one side of 8 ½- x 11-inch white paper. Include your name, address, and telephone number with each submission. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your manuscript returned. Address submissions to Friend Magazine, 50 East North Temple, Room 2393, Salt Lake City, UT 84150, USA.

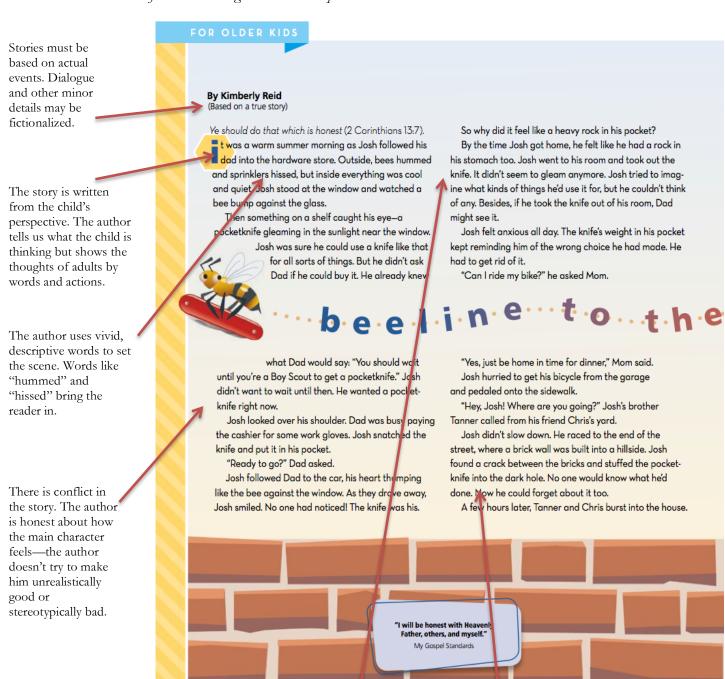
Email: Send your submission to friend@ldschurch.org, or use the "Submit Your Material" link on friend.lds.org.

Review process: Editors will review your submission, and a staff member will let you know whether we would like to accept your submission for our files. If your submission is accepted, you will be asked to sign a contract that allows the Church to publish it in print or online. Due to our lengthy planning and approval process, a submission will usually not appear in print for at least a year, and often much longer. Two copies of any issue containing your work, not including child submissions, will be sent to you upon publication.

The *Friend* currently pays by commission only. If you would like your work to be considered for purchase, please send a query letter to the mailing or email address above. Or you can send us your material as a donated piece. Thanks again for your interest in the *Friend* magazine!

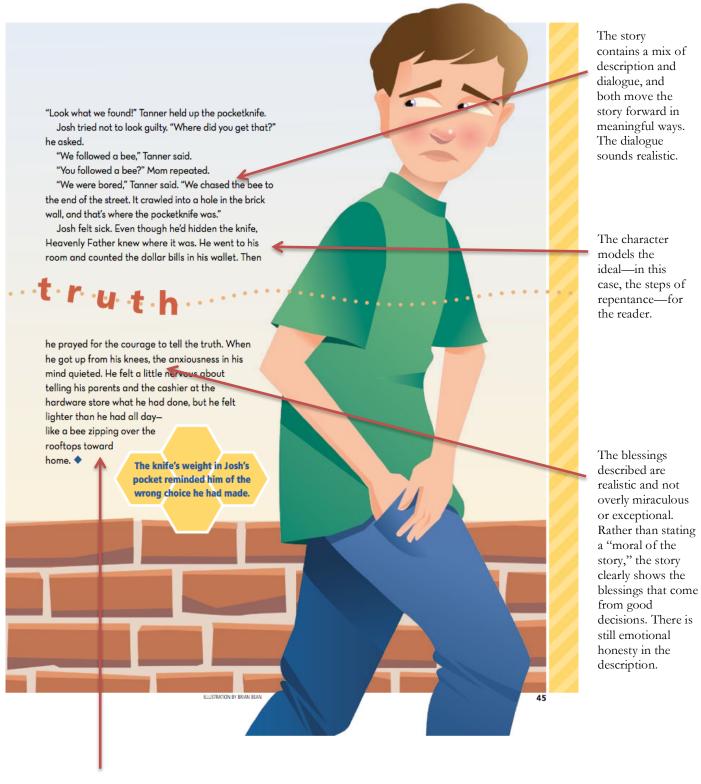
# What makes a good illustrated story?

We publish several illustrated stories in each issue of the magazine. These stories are 500–600 words long. Here are elements we look for when deciding which stories to publish.



These words show us what guilt feels like rather than just saying "Josh felt guilty." Instead of relying on labels or jargon, the author describes a feeling in a way a child would understand.

The child in this story is working to try to solve his own problems. There is no preachy adult telling the child what he should or should not do.



In this story, the imagery of a bee is used multiple times to describe emotions and give the story a sense of continuity. This recurring image also lends itself well to interesting artwork.

# What makes a good Friend Junior story?

We publish simple stories for young children in the Friend Junior section of the magazine each month.

Stories written for early readers feature larger print typeface. They should be about 250 words long and should use very simple vocabulary. The text should be fun and lend itself to interesting art details.







Two little feet to run and play.



Two little legs to help all day.



Two little hands to choose the right.



Two little arms to hug goodnight!

September 2016 FJ3

This is an example of an action rhyme from the Friend Junior section.