

The 'A Bee Sees' of Writing for Guideposts

Asheville Christian Writers Conference, 2026
taught by Julie Lavender

author of *Children's Advent Stories for Bedtime*; *Children's Bible Stories for Bedtime*; *Jumbo Bible Word Search Puzzle Book*; *Strength for All Seasons: A Mom's Devotional of Powerful Verses and Prayers*, and *Raising Good Sons: Christian Parenting Principles for Nurturing Boys of Faith and Character* (Penguin Random House), *A Gingerbread House* (End Game Press), & *365 Ways To Love Your Child: Turning Little Moments Into Lasting Memories* (Revell)

- * **A**lways tell a good story.
- * **B**e prepared to give something to your reader. 1) Teach something. 2) Provide an emotional journey. 3) Share an experience.
- * **C**onflict and change are a must.
- * **D**o include the 5 Ws as quickly as possible – who what when where and why
- * **E**nter the story at the point closest in time to the turn-round, but when the narrator is in his/her deepest spiritual water.
- * **F**irst-person narrator is a must.
- * **G**ive some background as to arrival of conflict.
- * **H**ave some background – but not too much.
- * **I**nclude scenes – three preferably.
- * **J**ump from one tense moment to another.
- * **K**eep tension throughout narrative.
- * **L**et readers 'feel' the scene.
- * **M**ention concrete nouns instead of adjectives.
- * **N**arrator needs to be likeable, but not a saint – needs to be relatable and authentic.
- * **O**ffer dialogue that moves story forward.
- * **P**eak the problem.
- * **Q**uicken the reader's empathy for the narrator.

Julie Lavender
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- * **R**eveal the agent of change.
- * **S**how turn-around in a scene.
- * **T**each reader a lesson – give them a takeaway.
- * **U**nderscore the change in the narrator.
- * **V**erify the facts of story and necessary features.
- * **W**rite up the manuscript.
- * Give editors the e**X**tras.
- * **Y**ield to God.
- * **Z**ip off an email.

Guidelines for GP NF books and periodicals: <https://guideposts.org/tell-us-your-story/call-for-submissions/>

Guidelines for *GP Magazine* and *Angels on Earth*: <https://guideposts.org/tell-us-your-story/>

Thanks for attending my class! I'd love to hear about your work for hire success stories!!! Please connect with me at julielavenderwrites.com and on social media to tell me about ANY of your writing successes! I love talking about writing with fellow writers! It's my joy to pray for writer friends and encourage them, too! Let's connect!

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I'd be honored if you'd check out my books. You'll find them listed at the top of the page. May God bless your writing adventures!