

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: MARCH 1, 2017

Are you a Chicago teen who enjoys writing and would like to become a **PUBLISHED** author?

If so, please submit a piece of creative nonfiction (a narrative essay, nonfiction poem, or even a photograph or piece of original artwork – though we’re looking mostly for writing) on the topic of **RELATIONSHIPS** for possible publication with Big Shoulders Books. BSB is a small press operated by DePaul University’s MA in Writing and Publishing program, and our next book will feature creative nonfiction written by Chicago teens.

We’re particularly interested in works of creative nonfiction that:

- a) are **true**, as in all the events really happened, all the people are real people (though you’re free to change names and identifying details to protect privacy), and that tell interesting stories using lots of specific details and descriptions.
- b) **explore** your ideas and experiences with successful and/or unsuccessful relationships.
- c) **reflect** on what you see as important elements of good relationships, what you do and don’t want for yourself, relationship-wise, and anything else that interests you about this topic.

**TOPICS:** Here are some prompts to get you started. Feel free to pick and choose which one(s) interest you.

- What is the earliest memory you have of feeling romantic love? Who was the object? What attracted you to that person?
- Describe a relationship you’ve been in or seen that shapes how you think about relationships now.
- Have you ever felt pressured to act a certain way in a relationship because you’re “the guy” or “the girl”? Describe a specific time or times. How do you think about that now?
- What is the most romantic moment you’re ever witnessed between your parents or other adults?

- Make a list of times when you have been confused about love. Write about one or two of those experiences.
- Has someone ever said or done something to break your heart? Describe that experience.
- What models do you see in your life (whether among real people, in books, on TV, or in movies) for healthy romantic relationships? What models do you see for unhealthy relationships?
- How would you define a healthy or unhealthy relationship?
- Have you ever had a crush on someone and acted on it? Write about that experience using the present tense.
- How do you see romantic relationships playing into your future? Would you like to get married some day? Do you believe in finding “the one” for you? Explore your attitudes and beliefs about romantic relationships.

**LENGTH:** We imagine most essays will fall between 3-10 pages long, but there are no requirements. Write as much or as little as you’d like, revise as much or as little as you like, proofread, and then submit what you have.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Please put your **name** and **contact information** on each page of your submission, and send it to us either electronically or by mail at the addresses below.

**ANONYMOUS PUBLICATION:** If your submission is selected for publication, you will have the option of publishing the work anonymously.

**ADDRESSES:** Email submissions to: [mmorano@depaul.edu](mailto:mmorano@depaul.edu) OR

Mail submissions to: Dr. Michele Morano  
 English Department  
 DePaul University  
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 Chicago, IL 60614

**QUESTIONS:** If you or your parents have any questions, please contact either of us at:

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