



iris | new fiction: call for submissions

theme: identity

Iris, a new literary magazine for young adults, seeks submissions for its inaugural issue. Named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow, *Iris* will publish stories with an LGBTQ slant to create an engaging and challenging publication for teens ages 14-17. *Iris* hopes to remedy the lack of gay characters and discussion of LGBTQ issues in mainstream fiction by publishing stories that engage in some way with the LGBTQ community. This engagement can take the form of LGBTQ protagonists; protagonists with LGBTQ friends; straight allies; etc.

Iris will publish quarterly, and will feature works of short fiction (less than 2,000 words) and poetry, including single poems or collections of no more than five poems. *Iris* asks that all stories meet content guidelines (in short: no sex, no violence, no drugs) because we fully expect readers younger than our intended demographic to download, read, and enjoy the magazine.

Iris invites submissions on the theme of identity for its first issue. Poet e.e. cummings wrote:

“It takes courage to grow up and become who you truly are.”

What does it mean to grow up? Who are children growing into? What does it mean to change, to become a new person? Tell us stories that invite discussion and that challenge readers of all ages. Write us poetry that considers what it means to grow up gay or to grow up by supporting a gay friend. Dazzle us with beautiful language. Give us stories that transport us to imagined places and that illuminate the joys and trials of ordinary lives. In short: write us exciting fiction and poetry, make us think, and keep to the [guidelines for submission](#).

The submissions window begins 15 September 2013 and closes on 1 November 2013. All work must be submitted through our submissions manager. We anticipate that the first issue of *Iris* will be published on 15 December 2013.

At present *Iris* is a labor of love and therefore we regret that not only can we not pay ourselves, we cannot pay our contributors. Hopefully, that will change in the future! In the meantime, please support independent voices like ours by sharing your work with us. We the staff of *Iris* fully believe in our mission to provide high-quality writing for a young adult audience, and hope by sharing your talent and hard work with us, you'll join us in this exciting new venture.

Thank you: for reading, sharing, and – we hope – writing!

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