



# JUST Write for KIDS

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## Children's Book Writer's Resources

### Books on Writing for Children and Young Adults

**The ABCs of Writing for Children: 114 Children's Authors and Illustrators Talk About the Art, the Business, the Craft & the Life of Writing Children's Literature**, by Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff

**The Art of Fiction: Notes on Craft for Young Writers**, by John Gardner

**Children's Writer's Word Book**, by Alijandra Mogilner (Vocabulary for different grade levels, particularly useful if you write for the educational market)

**Gates of Excellence**, by Katherine Paterson: essays on writing and children's literature. Also by Paterson, **The Invisible Child: On Reading and Writing Books for Children**

**How to Promote Your Children's Book**, by Katie Davis (e-book – [www.katiedavis.com](http://www.katiedavis.com)).

**The Complete Idiot's Guide To Publishing Children's Books**, by Harold Underdown

**It's a Bunny-Eat-Bunny World: A Writer's Guide to Surviving and Thriving in Today's Competitive Children's Book Market**, by Olga Litowinsky

**On Writing for Children and Other People**, by Julius Lester

**Second Sight: An Editor's Talks on Writing, Revising, and Publishing Books for Children and Young Adults**, by Cheryl B. Klein

**Take Joy: A Writer's Guide to Loving the Craft**, by Jane Yolen

**Writing Children's Books for Dummies**, by Lisa Rojany Buccieri & Peter Economy

**Writing Irresistible Kidlit: The Ultimate Guide to Crafting Fiction for Young Adult and Middle Grade Readers**, by Mary Kole

## Publishing Reference Books

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**Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market** – Also known as CWIM, published annually by Writers Digest. Provides detailed information about children's publishers and agents, their submission guidelines, awards, and more. Though updated annually, you should also check their website (<http://www.writersdigest.com>) and use the other sources mentioned here to keep track of changes between editions.

**Literary Marketplace/“LMP”** – the “Yellow Pages” of the publishing industry. This is the nearest thing to a complete source, as it covers publishers of every size, agents, even packagers, and is updated annually. Peruse it at your local library, since it is prohibitively expensive to buy.

## Magazines/Newsletters

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**Children's Book Insider** – Jon Bard and Laura Backes' excellent monthly newsletter and myriad resources for children's book writers.  
[www.writeforkids.org](http://www.writeforkids.org)

**Publishers Weekly** – Weekly international news of book publishing and bookselling including articles, reviews, bestseller lists, etc. In particular, subscribe to PW's Children's Bookshelf, which provides a weekly newsletter. <http://www.publishersweekly.com>

**SCBWI Bulletin** – (bi-monthly) The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' magazine devoted to writing for children and children's book industry news, available with membership to SCBWI.  
<http://www.scbwi.org>

**School Library Journal** – (monthly) The earth's biggest review source for books, multimedia and technology for children and teens. Subscribe to the magazine and newsletter, and follow their blogs.  
<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com>

**The Writer Magazine** – (monthly) Advice and instruction on the craft of writing, author interviews, getting published and freelance writing, plus writing markets.  
<http://www.writermag.com>

**Writers Digest** – tips and publishing secrets, technique articles, business information, inspirational stories, writing contests and tools of the trade. Published 8 times a year.  
<http://www.writersdigest.com>

## Associations/Organizations

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**The Children's Book Council** – Provides a very useful list of children's publishers and staff, describes programs, and notes whether a publisher is accepting unsolicited manuscripts and in what form submissions should be made. The list is updated monthly. <http://www.cbcbooks.org>

**Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)** – Essential membership organization, with tons of information and industry resources available to members, a newsletter (which notes changes at publishers), local chapters and conferences all over the country and internationally.

<http://www.scbwi.org>

**ABA (American Booksellers Association)** – Good source of news, trends and resources.

<http://www.bookweb.org>

**ALA (American Library Association)** – Awards, guidelines, standards, conferences, magazines, and publications.

<http://www.ala.org>

**The Authors Guild** – Authors union.

<http://www.authorsguild.org>

## Web Resources

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**Children's Book Insider/CBI Clubhouse** – Jon Bard and Laura Backes' terrific and esteemed site, with monthly newsletters and myriad resources for children's book writers.

<http://www.writeforkids.org>

**Children's Bookshelf** – a free weekly email newsletter about children's books and the world of children's publishing put out by Publishers Weekly. <http://www.publishersweekly.com>

**JacketFlap** – A social networking/membership site for children's book authors.

<http://www.jacketflap.com>

**Katie Davis** – Author, illustrator, marketing and video guru.

<http://www.KatieDavis.com>

**Media Bistro** – Online courses, job listings, networking.

<http://www.MediaBistro.com>

**The Purple Crayon** – Harold Underdown's excellent kidlit site. <http://www.underdown.org>

**Querytracker.net** – Extensive database and search tools to help you locate the perfect agent or publisher for your work, and also to track your query letters and responses.

[www.querytracker.net](http://www.querytracker.net)

## KidLit Blogs

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- A Chair, A Fireplace & A Tea Cozy – <http://www.lizburns.org/>
- Cynsations – <http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com>
- Editorial Anonymous – <http://www.editorialanonymous.blogspot.com>
- Emma D Dryden – <http://emmaddryden.blogspot.com/>
- Emmasaries – <http://www.emmawaltonhamilton.com/blog>
- Esme Raji Codell – <http://www.planetesme.com>
- A Fuse #8 Production (Elizabeth Bird) – <http://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/>
- Galleycat (Media Bistro) – <http://www.mediabistro.com/galleycat>
- Jane Friedman – <http://www.janefriedman.com>
- Jen Robinson's Book Page – <http://jkrbooks.typepad.com/>
- Julie Hedlund – <http://www.juliehedlund.com/julies-blog/>
- Katie Davis – <http://www.katiedavis.com> (also listen to Katie's regular kidlit podcast, Brain Burps About Books)
- Kidlit.com (Mary Kole) – <http://www.kidlit.com>
- Kidlitosphere Central – <http://www.kidlitosphere.org>
- Lisa Tener's Writing Blog – <http://www.lisatener.com>
- Literaticat (Jennifer Laughran) – <http://literaticat.blogspot.com/>
- MotherReader – <http://www.motherreader.com/>
- Rachelle Gardner – <http://www.rachellegardner.com>
- Read Roger (Roger Sutton, Horn Book Editor) – <http://www.hbook.com/blog/>
- Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast – <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings>
- ShelfTalker: A Children's Bookseller's Blog – <http://blogs.publishersweekly.com/blogs/shelftalker/>
- Twenty by Jenny – <http://www.twentybyjenny.com/>

... and dozens more at <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com> and <http://www.publishersweekly.com>

## Conferences, Festivals, Book Fairs, Trade Shows

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- **ALA** – American Library Association (Annual conference – June)
- **BEA** – Book Expo America (June – New York City)
- **Bologna Children's Book Fair** (March)
- **Frankfurt Book Fair** (October)
- **LA Times Festival of Books** (April)
- **National Book Festival** (Washington, D.C.)
- **SCBWI** – Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (Annual Conferences – January – New York City, August – Los Angeles; Local chapter events internationally)
- **Southampton Children's Literature Conference** (July – Southampton, NY)

## MFA and Certificate Programs in Writing for Children and Young Adults

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- **Hamline University**, Saint Paul, MN – MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults.  
<http://www.hamline.edu/cla/mfac/>
- **Hollins University**, Roanoke, VA – MA/MFA in Children's Lit.  
<http://www.hollins.edu/grad/childlit/index.shtml>
- **Simmons College of Arts and Sciences**, Boston, MA – Writing for Children MFA.  
<https://www.simmons.edu/gradstudies/programs/childrens-literature/writing.php>
- **Stony Brook Southampton's Children's Lit Fellows**, Southampton, NY – 16-credit, 1-year certificate program in writing children's lit.  
[http://www.stonybrook.edu/southampton/mfa/childrens\\_lit/index.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/southampton/mfa/childrens_lit/index.html)
- **Vermont College of Fine Arts**, Montpelier, VT – MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults.  
<http://www.vcfa.edu/wcya>