THE AUTHORS PUBLISH GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT PUBLISHING

68 TRADITIONAL PUBLISHERS REVIEWED

NO AGENT REQUIRED

EMILY HARSTONE

The Authors Publish Guide to Children's and Young Adult Publishing

Emily Harstone

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Introduction

Writing for children and young adults is very different than writing for adults. Audience expectations are different. Picture books, for example, have completely different sub-genres than adult books. Whereas adult books have genres like science fiction and fantasy, picture books have sub-genres like fairy tale, alphabet, and bedtime books.

There is a whole body of knowledge that the authors of children's and young adult books need to apply that is separate from that used by writers who write books for adults. I have decided to write a book focused on children's and young adult publishing in order to detail specifics required to publish in that sector. I've covered adult publishing in *The Authors Publish Guide to Manuscript Submission* -- if you only write adult fiction or non-fiction that book would be a much better fit for you

It is important to state that this book won't cover writing and editing a children's book, as that is a separate skill set. In my experience, the best way to gain knowledge in those areas is to join a class or workshop that focuses on children's book writing.

This book is focused on publishing a book you have already written, revised and edited. Please know that revision and editing are

essential steps you must complete before starting the submission process. Publishers do not take un-edited work seriously.

The Authors Publish Guide to Children's and Young Adult Publishing will cover the basics of how to submit a manuscript, as well the details you should know before submitting children's and young adult (YA) books.

There are so many misconceptions about children's book publishing! One of the most common is that an author should submit a picture book with illustrations already included, when that is in fact the opposite of what most publishers want – unless, of course, you are an author/illustrator. I hope to dispel any misconceptions in this book.

The Authors Publish Guide to Children's and Young Adult Publishing also includes information on 70 manuscript publishers that consider direct submissions of children's and YA books. Following that section is a chapter on literary journals and magazines that are open to writing aimed at younger readers, and then a chapter on additional resources for authors.

This book should give you all the information necessary to submit a manuscript and find a publisher, as well as help you understand the

children's publishing market as a whole. However, this book won't help you write that manuscript.

Some of the information in the Children's Book section and the YA section is redundant. I am assuming that most authors will not read this book from cover to cover, instead they will selectively read the sections that are relevant to them. Because of that there is, for example, a manuscript formatting section in each of the sections.

This is the first edition of *The Authors Publish Guide to Children's and Young Adult Publishing* and I have tried to include all of the vital information for a book like this, but I am sure I have not succeeded. I would be very grateful for any feedback about the book or questions, or requests for information to include in the second edition.

You can contact me at support@authorspublish.com.

– Emily Harstone

How to Submit Your Manuscript

If you are not sure if your work is ready to submit, this article can really be helpful. It covers the three steps you need to follow in order to make sure that your manuscript is ready to be sent out to agents or publishers.

Once you are sure that your manuscript is ready, you can start the submission process. But realize that you still might have to make changes in order for it to be accepted by a publisher or an agent.

For a long time, submitting seemed strange and mysterious to me. It seemed too overwhelming to actually do. In fact, for the most part submitting is relatively easy.

Most publishers want the same two things -- a query letter and a synopsis (although a synopsis is not needed with picture books). They also expect an excerpt of your book, generally the first two chapters. Most publishers want the entire manuscript for picture books.

There are specific requirements that differ from publisher to publisher and from agency to agency. However, it is good to have a basic query letter and synopsis that you modify to meet the needs of the given agent or publisher. Just make sure you send the correct version to the right person; it really annoys a publisher to receive

submissions with another publisher's name on it. The same goes for agents.

You should spend a lot of time and consideration crafting the query letter. This is the first impression you will make on agents and publishers. This article is very helpful to read before starting your query letter.

It is also important to note that if you are submitting a cover letter for a children's book or a YA novel, you should include any relevant experience you have that pertains to the audience of the book. For example, it is important to include the fact that you are a kindergarten teacher if you are submitting a book aimed at kindergartners. If you have volunteered with youth for a decade, include that relevant information in a submission. If you wrote a non-fiction picture book about plants for example, and you are a botanist, that would be relevant information to include.

Many publishers expect information about your author platform or marketing plan. Don't know where to start in terms of an author platform? *Building an Author Platform* by Chantelle Atkins is a great place to start.

If you are writing a book targeted to young children, it is normal for the primary people interacting with you on your website to be adults. If you are writing a YA book, you want to appeal more to a younger audience (middle school on up). Parents and educators are

more likely to pick out kids' books, but most teenagers won't let adults have too much of a say in what they read.

If you meet a publisher or an agent directly at a conference, most will accept a pitch in person, followed by an email query. A pitch can also be handy to include in your query cover letter. Don't know what a pitch is? This article talks about what a pitch is, and more importantly, how to make a good one. This article goes into even more detail. I always include my pitch in my cover letter.

Not all publishers and agents require a synopsis, but many do. Synopses are vital for all chapter books, from middle grade readers to YA. Not all publishers want them, but most do. Most publishers want a complete synopsis of the plot that fits on one page. By complete synopsis, I mean that they want spoilers. They also generally want information about character development. This article focuses on how to craft a synopsis.

It should go without saying, but edit and polish the query letter and synopsis before submitting. If you can afford an editor-for-hire, have them review the query letter, the synopsis, and also the first twenty pages (of chapter books and novels). Twice. Or more. The first twenty pages of chapter books are all that most agents and many publishers will initially see, so make sure they are compelling and error free.

You should also make sure that your manuscript is correctly formatted. This article focuses on that.

Author M.J. Moores interviewed a literary agent, an editor, and a published author to uncover the top reasons most manuscripts are rejected. Her article, The Top Three Reasons Most Manuscripts get Rejected should be read before you begin the submission process.

Once you have completed a query letter and a synopsis that you are happy with, start to research places to which you are going to submit your book. You should decide early on if you want to submit directly to publishers, or if you want to submit to agents.

If you are focusing on finding an agent, you should read the article, "The Safest Way to Search For an Agent," before proceeding. This article on how to find, research, and evaluate literary agents is also very helpful. One of the best free reputable search engines for agents is Agent Query, where you can start looking for an agent.

When looking for an agent, you should focus on agents who primarily work with children's or YA publishing. Submitting your children's or YA manuscript to an agent who focuses only on adult publishing is doing both the agent and your manuscript a disservice. Children's and YA publishing is a specialized market and you want to work with an agent who really understands it.

It is also important to note, particularly when it comes to children's publishing, it is normal to find a publisher and then an agent. The well-known children's author Eileen Spinelli says: "Send them to as many editors as possible and don't give up. You might want to get an agent after your first book is published. The main thing is don't become discouraged."

Even major publishers, including some of the big five, accept un-agented submissions when it comes to children's books.

The prolific and renowned author/illustrator Tomie DePaola advises unpublished authors to send query letters without including the manuscript. The idea being if you can't sum up the plot and appeal of the book in one paragraph it is doubtful that a publisher would be interested in it.

If you are looking at submitting a manuscript directly to a publisher, a whole chapter that covers publishers accepting direct submissions comes later in the book. We always check watchdog sites like Writers Beware before reviewing a publisher.

Remember, there is no such thing as a legitimate traditional publisher that charges its writers. Your publisher should pay you, not the other way around. When examining a publisher's website, this article will help you know what to keep an eye out for.

Some publishers can respond to submissions within weeks, others within years, so keep that in mind. If you have not heard from a publisher in six months, you should email them to ask about the status of the manuscript. That is, unless they explicitly state on their website that they will either take longer than the six months or, will not reply to the submission unless they are interested.

Once you find agents or publishers that you feel would be a good fit, you should check and double-check their submission guidelines. This article is a great reminder of how and why following the guidelines is so important.

Most publishers accept electronic submissions through email or a submission manager, but a few still require submissions through the post. Either way, the publisher's submission guidelines should walk you through the steps. The same goes for agents.

It is important to refrain from submitting to an agent or publisher if they say they are closed to unsolicited submissions. Your manuscript will not be read and in all likelihood you will annoy the person or persons who receive it, which could hurt your chances with them in the future.

Children's Book Publishing

Children's book publishing is a catchall phrase that covers a wide variety of age groups and sub-genres aimed at each age group. Below I break down the different categories of publishing, give examples of successful books in each category, and detail what most publishers are looking for in terms of each category. I'm also going to cover things that are important in terms of picture books and chapter books.

I went back and forth on where to put it, but the section on "tween" books is here and not in the chapter focused on YA literature.

Board Books and Early Concept Books

These books are aimed at babies and young children ages zero to four. Board books are composed of hard, thick pages. Some authors specialize in them, particularly Sandra Boynton, whose classics include *The Going to Bed Book* and *Barnyard Dance*.

If a board book has a plot it is a very minimal one. They are usually narrated in third person and there are generally less than ten pages a book. Often picture books that do well are reprinted as board books later on, and these board books tend to have a lot more words and be aimed generally at older readers. The advice in this section is

focused on books that are first and primarily printed in the board format.

Sometimes board books are focused on concepts such as colors, or lessons such as going to the potty. A large number of board books are about going to bed and the alphabet or counting. Language in these books is very simple.

Board books usually have less than 100 words total. Some early picture books have board book editions, such as *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans and *Corduroy* by Don Freeman. These books are much longer than a hundred words in length, but that is because they are picture books first and foremost, just converted to the board book format.

Early Concept Books are generally identical to board books in terms of content, but the presentation is different. Instead of being printed on thick board, they are books with normal paper pages (although sometimes the paper is on the thicker side to create flaps). These books are aimed at the same age group as board books generally are. Examples include *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell, as well as *Faster! Faster!* by Leslie Patricelli. It is important to note that, if a book is popular in paperback and aimed at the very young, it will almost always get a board book version.

It is also important to note that even when it comes to board books, trends matter. A few years ago it became very trendy to create board book versions of classics, such as *Pride & Prejudice A Counting Primer* by Jennifer Adams, and many more.

Early Picture Books

Early Picture Books are aimed at kids ages three to six. Most publishers currently prefer to publish books in the 300 to 800 word range, but they can be up to 1,000 words (although these are a tougher sell). Most books sold are in the 300 to 500 word range. The idea behind the limited word count is that the author relies on the illustrator for most of the description. Any description left in the text is usually important to the rhythm and cadence of the story.

Mostly, these books have a central protagonist who is either of kindergarten age, or an animal. The protagonist, and not any adults in the story, must solve the central story problem. Many books aimed at this age range do not really have adults in them; the focus is either on children or animals.

The language in picture books is geared towards being read out loud. Themes can cover everything from family, to loss (usually in terms of favorite toys – keeping things light), to controlling emotions, to siblings (particularly the addition of new ones).

Famous read aloud picture books include, *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak, *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch, and *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.

Picture Storybooks

These books are aimed at children ages five to eight. It is a more limited demographic and overlaps with the early reader demographic. Picture storybooks are much trickier to sell to publishers. They are generally between 500 to 1000 words in length, but anything that is 750 words or longer is a harder sell, so that point is important to keep in mind. Most picture books stay within the either 32 or 48 page format, the allowance going to longer works of nonfiction.

Popular picture books for older readers include, *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* by Jon Scieszka, *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion, and *The Goblin and the Empty Chair* by Mem Fox.

The language is still intended for an adult to read out loud, and can be a little more complex. Themes in books like these can also be more complex and handle harder issues like poverty, divorce, etc..

Overall Picture Book Advice

If you are not an author/illustrator, send your picture book manuscript as written story only, without pictures. Most publishers have contracts with illustrators or in-house illustrators that they will pair you with if they accept the work. This is one of the reasons you should really go with a publisher you trust, and one with a good visual sense.

If you are an illustrator, most publishers are open to illustrator submissions. Most independent publishers do not accept submissions by author/illustrator, and if you are an author/illustrator I highly encourage you to try and find an agent.

Some authors overcompensate for the lack of illustrations by adding detailed descriptions of what pictures they want to be paired with the text they've already written. This is unprofessional, as publishers do not want too much information. Based on the text, it should be relatively clear what the picture will end up being. But if need be, the author can include minimal illustrator notes to describe

important action on the page that might not be obvious with words only.

Because the publisher is ultimately the one in control of the illustrations, I really encourage picture book writers to have looked at in-person, and preferably purchased, at least one book from every publisher they are submitting to. The library can really help with that if your budget is limited, but it is much easier to know what you are getting into if you are not basing your opinion on the front cover of a book you are seeing only online.

If you have completed professional illustrations for your book already, there are a few publishers that consider books with illustrations and you can submit to those. But your odds of getting your manuscript accepted are higher if you try to find an agent first. Most of the successful author/illustrators I know found an agent and then a publisher.

In general, the biggest mistake that I see from authors who are writing children's books is that they aren't spending much time reading them! Even though I'm not writing picture books, as the parent of a small child I spend an hour every day reading picture books.

For authors, I think it is very important to be aware of the classic picture books that have defined earlier generations, books like *Good Dog Carl* by Alexandra Day, *Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, *Dogger* by Shirly Hughes, and *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett.

It is also important to get a feel for what is currently popular and defining children's book publishing. By reading contemporary children's books, I have been surprised by the focus on protagonist originality and quirks. Books like *This is Sadie* by Sara O'Leary, and *Iggy Peck, Architect* by Andrea Beaty are clear examples of this. But there is a wide variety in contemporary classics. Herve Tullt's *Press Here* has no characters at all. Jon Klassen's *I Want My Hat Back* is largely humor based.

Go to your local bookstore and look at what books they're promoting in the children's section. Try to find a knowledgeable bookseller to tell you which books are selling well. Focus in on those that were just published in the last year or so. And, read the awards lists for acclaimed titles.

Take note of who is publishing what. If the publisher that is currently focused on publishing work that is similar to what you are working on only accepts agented submissions, you should focus on finding an agent, perhaps even one that has already placed books

with that publisher. Make sure to mention the successful books that your book has common ties to when submitting to publishers or agents. It will make it clear that you have done your due diligence.

Some of the readers will already know all this, and have already put in effort in this regard. If you have, focus on reading the books that are aimed at the same age group as your book. There is no such thing as being too well read when it comes to picture books, and the relative brevity of them makes it possible to read a lot even with limited free time.

This might not be something publishers take into consideration, but as a parent I only buy books for my child that aren't too repetitive, because I know I will be reading the book possibly hundreds of times over. Some repetition is important and good for kids' reading confidence, but too much can turn parents off.

Rhyming is a harder sell these days, particularly to publishers. It is certainly harder to publish rhyming books, but that doesn't mean that a book with excellent rhymes will not do well. *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson is a good example of a successful contemporary book that rhymes. In general, it is good to avoid rhyming, or to only include a few half rhymes unless you are an expert poet.

Also I cannot emphasize enough the importance of word choice. The vocabulary you use really has to be appropriate to the audience that your work is aimed at. *The Children's Writer's Word Book* by Alijandra Molginer is but one example of a resource you could use for leveling your word choices. If you read very many board books aimed at the very young you will realize it isn't just the words themselves that matter, but the sound of the words. Lots of onomatopoeias appeal to the very young; words like moo and choo-choo hold a lot of appeal.

If you're not sure the vocabulary of your book is appropriate, it can also be good to find some kids to test it out on. Make sure the length is appropriate enough to keep their attention, too.

Earlier I talked about how many words publishers are looking for, depending on the category. One has to take these limits seriously. You could write a great book, but it will not be considered for publication if it does not meet length requirements. There are of course longer picture books out there, but most of these were either written and published a long time ago, or were written by already established authors, or are in the nonfiction space.

The good news is that if your book is too long, you have an opportunity to perfect your craft by revising and editing it down to the appropriate length.

Also, it is good to know that many children's books now don't have a moral. Forcing one is not going to make yours more appealing to publishers. If there is one, that is fine, but it is in no way a requirement and many publishers don't like it.

I also encourage picture book authors to review the additional resources section of this book and join the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators or the Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators & Performers. Both of these organizations do a great job of providing accurate industry information.

Formatting Advice for Picture Book Manuscripts

Formatting a picture book in many ways is similar to formatting any other manuscript. You should always use 12pt Times New Roman font. The type should be black. Do not mess around with colors or font. It might seem cute at the time, but it is not a good idea and your manuscript will not be taken as seriously, or in some situations not be considered at all.

Your contact information should always be on the top left of the first page. This includes your name, you address, your phone number and your email address. You can include a link to a website if you have one.

The word count should be in the upper right. If you are submitting a print manuscript□ add a couple □□□inches between the information and your title. The title should be centered. Most authors make the title bold or make the font slightly bigger. Your name (or pen name) should be centered below the title, but it should be size 12 font and not bold.

Picture books do not require cover pages and so the actual manuscript should start below the title and author text, with maybe two or three inches of space between them. The manuscript itself should be double-spaced.

There should be no lines between paragraphs. Each paragraph should be indented .5 inches (Word standard setting). Paragraphs should be left aligned (standard) and the margins should be 1 inch (standard). Only one space should exist between sentences.

Make sure to have a header on all the following pages. The header must include the author's last name and the title on the upper left. Page numbers are mentioned on the right.

Make sure to follow any additional guidelines outlined by the publisher.

Do not include a copyright. Copyrighting work dates it (among other things) and it also marks the author as an amateur. Copyrighting is not a necessary step to take with a manuscript. Just include the text of the story. Avoid unnecessary illustration notes, or page break notes, or anything else. Those are up to the discretion of the publisher, should they choose to publish the book.

Early Readers

Most early reader books are written in house and are targeted to 5 to 7 year olds. It is hard to find a publisher open to general submissions or an agent that handles them, although there are exceptions. Sometimes authors meeting publishers at conferences get drafted to write these books.

The word length of these books varies from 200 to 3,500 words. It all depends on what level of reader the book is aimed at.

The protagonist is usually the age or a year older than the intended reader. Sometimes the protagonist is an animal. The best example of the protagonist being an animal is in the books of Arnold Lobel including, *Owl at Home* and *Frog and Toad*. Other popular early

reader book series include *Henry and Mudge* by Cynthia Rylant and *Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish.

Early readers are still illustrated (although not always on every page), so it is important to keep that in mind. These books are designed for the child to read aloud on their own, but are often still read aloud by parents.

Third person is still the most common mode of storytelling. The stories generally have a clear plot arc starting with a hook, followed by rising action, a climax, and then a satisfying conclusion. These stories focus on action and dialogue. There is very little description.

Vocabulary is tightly controlled by the publisher. Themes are lighter in these works and the focus is on educating the reader.

Chapter Books

There are two levels of introduction when it comes to chapter books. One focuses on six to seven year olds and these books are between 5,000 and 20,000 words. The other is aimed at eight to ten year olds and these books are between 20,000 and 50,000 words.

The protagonist of these books tends to be a year older than the intended reader. The protagonist is not complicated and tends to be un-flawed.

These stories start out with a hook but the rising action tends to be more complicated and involves twists before the climax occurs. The story pace is slower in the older chapter books, but not much. The focus is on plot and dialogue and language is simple and straightforward. There are some descriptions in this level of books.

These books often have themes relevant to the first few years of school; things like fitting in and friendship are focused on in these books.

Early chapter books almost always have some illustrative element to them. They don't tend to have full color illustrations (though some do), or illustrations on every page, but illustrations are interspaced throughout the book.

The Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne is a classic example of an early reader aimed at six to seven year olds. *Ivy + Bean* by Annie Barrows is a good example of a series aimed at eight to ten year olds.

Middle Grade

These books are aimed at eight to thirteen year olds and are generally between 30,000 to 55,000 words in length. If the book is in the fantasy genre it tends to be longer. Books in this category tend to cover a whole range of subjects and topics. Some can deal with complex issues, and many do not.

There are some middle grade books with two protagonists aimed at this age group, but most still have one. The protagonists are usually a year or two older than the intended reader. The books are almost always written in past tense, with a few exceptions.

In books for middle grade readers the plot is longer, more developed, and more complex. All of the components of a story arc play a role here. Sub-plots play an important role and secondary characters become more developed.

In middle grade books, the main character tends to have more complex motivations than at the chapter book level. Main characters can make mistakes, as long as they redeem themselves along the way.

Language must be clean of profanity but it can be more complex, particularly if your book is aimed at twelve to thirteen year olds.

Harry Potter is a middle grade series; or rather it starts out that way, as the later books veer solidly into YA territory. *Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolf, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George are all excellent examples of middle grade books.

Tween Novels

This is a new and difficult category for brick and mortar bookstores, as most have a clear children's section and a clear young adult section, and tween novels are neither, so they have to choose which section to put these book into (sometimes on a case by case basis). Because of that, novels in this category can be harder to sell to publishers.

Interesting is the fact that if you Google search tween books you get a lot of books I would consider middle grade readers (such as *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle and *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner), or YA titles (such as the *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins), so I think "tween" as a category is something readers struggle with as well.

Tween novels are aimed at children between the ages of ten and fourteen. Most are between 40,000 to 55,000 words, but tween fantasy or mystery novels can be longer.

The characters in these novels tend to be two to five years older than the intended audience. Having one protagonist is most common, but having two is not unheard of. Third person narration is how most stories for tweens are told, but first person narration is becoming more and more popular. Tween protagonists tend to be complex and flawed. Secondary characters can be very important in tween books, and they can have their own plot arcs.

Any theme can be covered in novels aimed at this age range, but subjects such as sexual abuse and rape are rarely the main plot focus and must be handled very carefully if introduced. But subjects are getting edgier, recently a number of books have had suicide as a major theme.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio and *Memoirs of a Bookbat* by Kathryn Lasky are good examples of tween books.

General Chapter Book Advice

It is so important to know and understand your audience with these age groups. The best way to do that is to read popular contemporary books in the category that you are writing for. It is also important to know what the classic books are in the age range you're writing for.

It can be very helpful to talk to a librarian about which older books are most consistently checked out from the library. Also, teachers

can be excellent resources for these age groups. They know which books engage their students and which ones do not.

Read widely in the age range your book is targeted at. If your book is in a sub-genre, say fantasy, make sure you read the seminal books in that sub-genre, for example, *The Earthsea Cycle* by Ursula K. Le Guin and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle.

With picture books, the age of the kids makes it kind of tricky to figure out why they like a particular one so much. I recently asked my four year old why *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes was her favorite book, and she said it was because she liked hearing the world Chrysanthemum. Older children can certainly give better storyline feedback.

The readers of chapter books can offer much more insightful feedback about why they like the things they like. So try to find some readers that are in the age range your book is aimed at. You can learn a lot from them about what books they like, and they can also ideally read your book manuscript and offer relevant feedback.

It can also be important, depending on the content of your book and your background as an author, to get a sensitivity reader. Sensitivity readers are individuals who review advance manuscripts of upcoming books, and they check for issues of representation, bias, insensitive language and cultural inaccuracies. They make suggestions for possible changes to authors. A sensitivity reader

reviews a manuscript for internalized bias and negatively charged language.

Many review companies such as Kirkus employ sensitivity readers, but authors now often pay readers to review the content of their books before they submit. Sensitivity readers are important for chapter books and YA books, particularly if you are interacting with charged issues that you yourself do not face. For example, if an author without a learning disability writes a book about having one, a sensitivity reader would be very helpful in promoting accurate representation.

Your sensitivity reader need not be a professional, and can even be a friend, but it is important that they come from the correct background for the story. For example, if you write a book about refugees yet you are not one, getting the perspective of a refugee would be vital for the authenticity of your book.

Formatting Advice

Formatting a manuscript aimed at early readers, middle grade readers, and tween readers is almost entirely the same. You should always use 12pt Times New Roman font. The type should be black. Do not mess around with colors or font. It might seem cute at the time, but it is not a good idea and your manuscript will not be taken as seriously, or in some situations not be considered at all.

Your contact information should always be on the top left of the first page. This includes your name, you address, your phone number and your email address. You can include a link to a website if you have one.

The word count should be in the upper right. If you are submitting a print manuscript add a couple f inches between the information and your title. The title should be centered. Most authors make the title bold or make the font slightly bigger. Your name (or pen name) should be centered below the title, but it should be size 12 font and not bold.

Books aimed at early readers do not require cover pages and so the actual manuscript should start below the title and author name, with maybe two or three inches of extra space. Chapter books of all lengths should have cover pages.

The manuscript itself should be double-spaced. There should be no lines between paragraphs. Each paragraph should be indented .5 inches (words standard setting). Paragraphs should be left aligned (standard) and the margins should be 1 inch (standard). Only one space should exist between sentences.

Make sure to have a header on all the following pages. The header must include the author's last name and the title on the upper left. Page numbers are mentioned on the right.

Make sure to follow any additional guidelines outlined by the publisher.

Do not include a copyright. Copyrighting work dates it (among other things) and it also marks the author as an amateur. Copyrighting is not a necessarily step to take with a manuscript.

Young Adult Publishing

YA is an interesting genre because unlike other categories of children's books, many adults read it, so there is a bit of a disconnect between the intended audience and the actual audience. Publishers speculate that up to 80% of YA books are bought by adults over the age of eighteen. Keep in mind that at least some of those adults are buying them for teens. YA books are officially aimed at thirteen to eighteen year olds.

Most publishers internally distinguish between older and younger YA, but when a reader is at a bookstore or browsing online, older and younger is mixed in together. For either older or younger YA, the author platform is more important than it is in children's book publishing because you will be directly interacting with teenagers.

Trends are very important in YA publishing. It is pretty easy to get a feeling for what is currently popular by talking to a teenage reader or by visiting a bookstore, or by going on Goodreads and looking up the most popular YA book for the current year. But figuring out what will be popular or what publishers are thinking of getting into is a little trickier.

In my experience, if there is one book that really stands out in terms of success, but there are few other contemporary books in this same

area, publishers will seek to fill the gap, and fast. *Twilight* was like that, and so were *The Hunger Games*, and both unleashed hundreds of imitations/variations.

The Horn Book Magazine (which we talk more about in the additional resources section) also regularly publishes helpful articles about trends in publishing.

It is very important to get a feel for what is good literature when it comes to YA, not just in terms of contemporary books, but in terms of classics; books like *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and The *Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. Reading books that recently did very well but are not current bestsellers can also be important. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green, and *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell are all good examples of that phenomenon.

The great thing about YA books is that you don't have to personally know teens to hear their feedback. Unlike younger kids, teenagers are more likely to discuss books and review them online. It is great to specifically seek out teen opinions that way.

It can be crucial, depending on the content of your book and your background as an author, to get a sensitivity reader. Sensitivity readers are individuals who review advance manuscripts of

upcoming books and they check for issues of representation, bias, insensitive language and cultural inaccuracies. They make suggestions for possible changes to authors. A sensitivity reader reviews a manuscript for internalized bias and negatively charged language.

Many review companies such as Kirkus employ sensitivity readers, but authors now often pay readers to review the content of their books before they submit them. Sensitivity readers are important for chapter books and YA books, particularly if you are interacting with charged issues that you yourself do not face. For example, if an author without a learning disability writes a book about having one, a sensitivity reader would be very helpful in promoting accurate representation.

Your sensitivity reader need not be a professional, and can even be a friend, but it is important that they come from the correct background for the story. For example, if you write a book about refugees yet you are not one, getting the perspective of a refugee would be vital for the authenticity of your book. You also need to know that they are willing to give you an honest opinion.

It is important to treat your sensitivity reader with respect, so even if they are a friend or acquaintance, you should pay them for their time.

Younger YA

Younger YA is generally shorter than YA aimed at older readers, although there are exceptions, but most books are between 50,000 to 70,000 words. Genre books like fantasy can certainly be longer. Romance novels tend to be on the shorter side of the word range.

Younger YA is aimed at readers between the ages of 13 to 16. The protagonist of these books is generally between fifteen and seventeen. In some situations they can be 18, but that is rare.

The plot format is the same as in an adult novel; there is a complete story arc multiple sub-plots are expected. Characters are complex at this point and must also go through a complete arc. For teens, the character arc often involves lots of angst and drama and first love and/or coming of age themes play an important role.

In Younger YA, character flaws are often specific to teens or are presented in a way that is specific to teens. Protagonists are angst filled, moody, and melodramatic. These characters are often self-involved and self absorbed, but still engaging.

Almost anything can happen in these novels, and with most publishers no subject is off limits. Although, if sex or violence appears in Younger YA, it is most often not overly graphic. Language should be mostly free of profanities or limited to mild ones. It is also increasingly important to avoid any language that is culturally offensive and problematic (a word like retard would be a prime example).

The main difference between adult and YA novels these days is the age of the protagonists and the fact that YA tends to be primarily plot oriented. Even literary YA has fewer descriptive passages than adult and more of a focus on pacing.

Older YA

Books that are categorized as Older YA are always over 50,000 words in length. The "longer the better" seems to be the general approach.

The target audience of these books is fifteen to eighteen year olds. The main protagonist of these books is not in college yet, but they

often have a sibling or a friend who is. The plot arcs are full and developed the same way they are in younger YA.

The character arc differs in Older YA and there is less teen angst and wallowing. The characters have generally already had their "coming of age moments," so their arcs are not quite as developed, and character changes are generally less dramatic. Proceeding along, the themes in Older YA tend to be lighter and not so dark and grim. Older readers tend to be over much angst and so the characters have to be, too.

In Older YA violence can be more fully described but sex still isn't. Language can be a bit grittier and there can be some profanity but it should be used sparingly and deliberately.

Formatting Advice

When formatting a YA manuscript you should always use 12pt Times New Roman font. The type should be black. Do not mess around with colors or font. It might seem cute at the time, but it is not a good idea and your manuscript will not be taken as seriously, or in some situations not be considered at all.

Your contact information should always be on the top left of the first page. This includes your name, you address, your phone number and

your email address. You can include a link to a website if you have one.

The word count should be in the upper right. If you're submitting a print manuscript add a couple inches between the information and your title. The title should be centered. Most authors make the title bold or make the font slightly bigger. Your name (or pen name) should be centered below the title, but it should be size 12 font and not bold. This information makes up the cover page. The rest of the manuscript continues on the next page.

The manuscript itself should be double-spaced. There should be no lines between paragraphs. Each paragraph should be indented .5 inches (Word standard setting). Paragraphs should be left aligned (standard) and the margins should be 1 inch (standard, with only one space between sentences).

Make sure to have a header on all the following pages. The header must include the author's last name and the title on the upper left. Page numbers are mentioned on the right.

Make sure to follow any additional guidelines outlined by the publisher.

Do not include a copyright. Copyrighting work dates it (among other things) and it also marks the author as an amateur. Copyrighting is not a necessary step to take with a manuscript.

Manuscript Publishers

This chapter contains information about manuscript publishers that consider un-agented submissions of books for children and young adults. Some of these publishers focus exclusively on children, while others only publish YA. But most of the publishers publish a wide variety of books aimed at a range of age groups, including adults.

This chapter is organized alphabetically. I tried sorting it into categories but nothing really worked. So, make sure that the publishers you are submitting to are open to the kind of book you are submitting. Please don't submit a picture book to a YA publisher.

Some of these publishers are currently closed to submissions, but all of them are open to unsolicited submissions during specific periods of time.

Always make sure to follow individual publisher's submission guidelines. Check the publisher's submission section on their website before submitting. If a publisher states that they are not open to submissions, don't submit. If the publisher says they don't accept your genre of book, don't submit (you would be surprised by how often this happens).

We only review publishers that are open to writers regardless of nationality or current location. All of these publishers are open to international submissions.

All of the publishers in this chapter are traditional publishers. That means they should never charge you anything. Please send us an email at support@authorspublish.com if any publishers on this list try to charge you for services in any way.

ABDO PUBLISHING

ABDO is an established and leading publisher of educational books for children. Currently, they are looking for fiction manuscripts that contain educational content, and they should be focused on children between the ages of four and twelve. You can get a good idea of what they publish by visiting their website and scanning through their catalog.

Most of what ABDO publishes is series of books, not individual books. Therefore, they prefer submissions to include the concept for a series and not just an individual book.

In order for your work to be considered for publication, send in a detailed outline of the manuscript and potential series, as well as an introduction and two chapters. These two chapters don't need to be the first two; they should be the two chapters that you consider to be the best.

If you are an illustrator, you should submit three to five pieces that reflect your style and range. These can be hard copies or JPG images. Your work will not be returned to you, unless you include a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Always make sure that everything you submit is a copy and not an original.

Make sure to include a cover letter that includes your particular skills and qualifications. You should also include your publishing history if you have any.

One of the few drawbacks of ABDO is that they do not respond to all submissions. If they reject your work, they will not necessarily tell you unless you query about the submission status. Do not query before six months has passed.

Submissions can be made via email or by post. Make sure when emailing to address your submission to the correct editor. To read all the details visit their website here.

Absey & Company

Absey & Company is currently looking for full-length manuscripts to publish. They have published many award-winning books in the last decade and are an established small press that publishes full-length works of poetry and prose. They are a print publisher that has yet to venture into e-books.

Absey & Company publishes work for children, teens, and adults and is based in Texas. They are interested in publishing literary works of fiction, poetry, and language arts.. They only accept submissions that are mailed to them and do not read electronically submitted work or full-length manuscripts.

When you submit work to Absey & Company, you should include a chapter-by-chapter outline, mention any previous publications (this is when being published in literary journals comes in handy), and other relevant information. You should also include two to three sample chapters and a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Larger publishers such as this one often take up to six months to respond. If you have not heard from them after six months, feel free to send then an email query letter.

To get a better feel for what they publish, go to their website and look at the books in your genre that they published recently. This is a good way to tell if they would be interested in your work.

Absey & Company is respected and established, they have won awards, and you can submit your work to them directly without having to get an agent who will take part of your check. To learn more visit their website here.

Albert Whitman & Company

Albert Whitman & Company has been around since 1919. I grew up reading the best-known series that they have published, *The Boxcar Children*. Over the past few years they have started to focus on publishing a larger number of books each year. Their goal is to be publishing 150 new books a year by 2020.

The company publishes middle grade fiction, picture books, and young adult novels. They consider proposals and unsolicited manuscripts in all of these categories. In picture books, they publish fiction and non-fiction.

Albert Whitman & Company handles their own distribution and sales to the trade (booksellers), school, and library markets. They are now focusing more on the trade aspect and have a new Young Adult Book imprint that has, to date, done well.

All submissions should be made via email. Under certain circumstances, however, they will review materials sent through the postal mail. These materials include self-published books and unusual formats that cannot be sent electronically. But you must query them through email first.

If you have not heard from Albert Whitman & Company in six months, assume that your work is rejected. If they are interested in

seeing more of your manuscript they will respond within those six months.

Follow their submission guidelines carefully. They have specific guidelines for each of the categories they publish. To read them in full visit their web page here.

If you want to learn even more about them, there is an interesting article on the American Booksellers Association Website. Some of the information in this review was gleaned from that article.

All Things That Matter Press

All Things That Matter Press is a small publishing company that prints their books on demand. They pay their authors royalties.

They primarily publish self-help books, books that focus on personal or societal growth, or novels that have a similar message. They are pretty much open to diverse genres, and have published poetry, science fiction, young adult, nonfiction, and even romance.

All Things That Matter Press focuses on publishing first-time authors. They do not accept books with overtly religious messages or ones that include violence or eroticism. Currently, they are looking for manuscripts that grab and maintain their attention. Manuscripts should also have a good sense of flow and be well edited in terms of punctuation and grammar.

It is really important to follow their submissions guidelines, so double and triple check the guidelines on their website before submitting. They will not respond to submissions that do not follow their guidelines. They are also not interested in overly long manuscript synopses.

Make sure that you read the guidelines yourself, but remember that they only accept email submissions. Your manuscript must be

completed, although they only want you to submit the first three chapters of your manuscript as an attachment.

Even though All Things That Matter Press manages some basic marketing, they want to know when you submit that you are committed to putting an effort into marketing your book.

Their website tone is a little overbearing, but they also include a lot of helpful tips and walk you through the steps your book will go through before being published.

Authors who have worked with them have had really mixed experiences and I would approach them with caution. This thread contains some very helpful information in terms of that.

You can visit their website and learn more about them.

Allen & Unwin Book Publishers

Allen & Unwin is a large, independent Australian Press that is open to submissions on a wide range of topics. They have won a number of Australian publisher awards. They accept manuscripts based on pitches, and have a system known as the "Friday Pitch," which ensures that at least one editor reviews each unsolicited pitch.

Allen & Unwin has great distribution in Australia and has published a large number of best-selling books on a wide range of topics. One of their areas of focus is Australian memoirs (although clearly that category is only open to Australian authors). They also run a prestigious literary contest that focuses on launching Australian authors, and they have a nonfiction division focused on New Zealand (which only accepts submissions from that country). Outside of these focused areas they seem open to pitches from authors of other nationalities.

All pitches must be made through their electronic submission system. One of the things I like about their guidelines is that in each of the categories they mention an example of a book (or books) that has done well after being accepted through this system. Some of the areas where they are currently open to submissions include their children's and young adult division (which publishes about 80 books a year), as well as literary and commercial fiction (although not in all genres) and nonfiction for adults.

To learn more, please go to their submission guideline page here. All of the pages have detailed information and you should read the guidelines carefully before submitting.

Amberjack Publishing

Amberjack Publishing is a small, new publisher founded in 2014. They primarily publish books for children and young adults, but they also publish memoir and fiction for adults.

All new publishers should be approached with caution, and Amberjack is no different, but since 2014, they appear to have figured out a lot of things they should not do. They used to have a problem with ads and some of the phrasing on their submission page. Those issues have now been resolved.

I really like the design of most of their covers, which are appealing and eye catching. They have a decent distributor, Midpoint Trade Books, which is also a good sign.

Amberjack also seems to grow and improve every year, consistently publishing more books – always a good sign.

They appear to put effort into promoting books as they are released, and I like how their author page and catalog are detailed. You can get a good feel for what they publish just by spending time with their catalog.

On the slight downside, there is not a lot of information about the company available on their website, which leads me to believe that the editors had minimal experience before starting Amberjack, as past credentials normally tend to be advertised.

They now accept all submissions through the submission manager authors.me.

Andersen Press

Andersen Press is a British book publishing company that specializes in children's books. They also have an American branch. The company was founded in 1976 by Klaus Flugge, and was named after Hans Christian Andersen. Random House has a holding in the company and has a strong association with Andersen.

Andersen Press is open to unsolicited manuscript submissions from authors of picture books and queries from authors of chapter books. They publish picture books that are approximately 500 words in length (maximum 1000), juvenile fiction for which the text would be approximately 3-5000 words, and older fiction up to 75,000 words.

They have good distribution and excellent cover art.

All submissions must be made to their London offices through the mail. They try to respond to all submissions within three weeks.

I will say that there was one negative report on the website Glassdoor about working with the US branch of Andersen Press, as an editor. But that was the only bit of negative information I was able to turn up in my digging.

To learn more visit their submission guidelines here. As always, review their submission guidelines carefully before submitting.

Andrews McMeel Publishing

Andrews McMeel Publishing is a large publishing house that publishes up to 300 books a year. They are one of the largest publishers that will read proposals by authors that have not been previously published and do not have an agent.

They are a leading publisher of general nonfiction trade books, gift books and humor books. Andrews McMeel Publishing's core publication categories are: cookbooks, comics & humor, and puzzles & games. They are open to some other categories as well; looking through their web catalog is the best way to get a feel for what kinds of books they publish.

In recent years, one of the areas they have had a great deal of success in is poetry books. They have published some bestsellers including, *Milk & Honey* by Rupi Kaur.

They only accept submissions that are mailed in. The book proposal you submit must include a cover letter that describes the work as a whole. Make sure to include who your target audience is, and also explain why Andrews McMeel Publishing is a good fit for your work.

You must also include an outline of your entire work and an estimate of the length of your prospective manuscript. In addition,

include one or two sample chapters, a brief bio, and your schedule to complete the manuscript.

Make sure your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address are on the manuscript, and any art that you include has your name on the back of it. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Andrews McMeel can take up to a year to respond to manuscripts, but their usual response time is less than that. If you are interested in learning more or submitting your proposal, please visit their website here.

Arbordale Publishing

“Our mission is to get children excited about science and math through fun-to-read picture book stories. We are primarily looking for fiction manuscripts with non-fiction facts woven into the story, although we will also consider some non-fiction stories. In every manuscript we look for a "cuddle factor" that will make parents and children want to read it together.”

This children's publisher focuses on science and math books that parents and children read together, meaning they offer family-focused rather than school-focused learning.

All of the books have a 2-6 page non-fiction section in the back that reinforces the educational components of the book. The author does not have to create this section, but they do have to provide facts that will be incorporated into the space.

All manuscripts must be less than a thousand words in length and meet the following criteria:

- Fun to read – mostly fiction with non-fiction facts woven into the story. We are NOT looking for pure "text-book" non-fiction
- National or regional in scope
- Must relate to science and math subjects taught at the elementary school level. Any manuscripts with a social

studies connection (culture, history, geography) must also contain a math or science component.

- Must be marketable through a niche market such as zoo, aquarium, or museum gift shop

They are also open to bilingual texts in Spanish and English. They have a lot of other very specific requirements. Make sure to look over their submission page carefully before submitting. This is a really niche publisher that does have a marketing plan.

All submissions must be made via email. It is a good idea to browse their catalog to get a better feel for the books they publish.

To learn more read their complete submission guidelines here.

Artisan

Artisan focuses on publishing heavily visual nonfiction books. The visuals themselves vary between photography, illustration, or graphic design, but the idea is that these books effectively communicate ideas and lessons because of their strong visual components. Most of the books, including Artisan's first bestseller, *The French Laundry Cookbook* by Thomas Keller, include all three components. They are best known for their cookbooks, which continue to be bestsellers by famous chefs and food critics. But they also publish books about a wide variety of other topics including design, clothing, storytelling, current interest and kids' crafts.

Reviewing their catalog here will give you a good picture of the wide range of books they publish. I encourage you to browse through at least three pages before deciding to submit; their range is that broad and surprising.

Artisan is an imprint of Workman Publishing, and unlike many of the other imprints, was founded in 1994 by the company itself. They try to respond to all proposals within three months. They stress that the more information you can give them about your project, the better. Unlike the other imprints of Workman, they only accept submissions via post. Please do not email them submissions, as they will not be read. Submissions made by post should be printed copies, never original work. They are based in New York City. I do

believe they offer advances, although nothing is explicitly stated on the website about that.

To read their full submission guidelines go here.

Arthur A. Levine Books

An imprint of Scholastic Inc., Arthur A. Levine Books was founded in 1996. They publish hardcover literary fiction and nonfiction for children and teenagers (and discerning adults). They have published many award winning and nominated books, as well as a number of very well known and respected authors (including J.K. Rowling).

They are open to submissions of picture books as long as the full text accompanies a query letter. For novels they want you to submit a query letter, the first two chapters, and a synopsis.

If you are not already familiar with Arthur A. Levine Books it is very important to review the catalog, and perhaps check one or two of their books out of your local library.

This is very important to note - if you are met with the message "There are presently no open calls for submissions," they have reached their monthly limit on queries. Please wait until the first day of the next month to submit your query. In that way they are able to stay open to submissions year round. Expect a response from them within six months.

They accept all submissions through the submission manager Submittable. They respond to all queries, even if it is just with a form rejection letter.
To read all of their submission guidelines, visit their website here.

Ashland Creek Press

Ashland Creek Press is a boutique press dedicated to publishing books with a worldview. The fiction and non-fiction they publish is about the environment, animal protection, ecology, and wildlife. Books they have published have received critical acclaim from a number of magazines including *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *Kirkus Reviews*.

They are open to many genres (including young adult, mystery, literary fiction) as long as the stories focus on the environment, animal protection, ecology, or wildlife, or some combination of those themes. They want to publish engaging and well written stories about these themes. They do not publish children's books or books of poetry.

Ashland Creek Press is an established publisher with experienced editors, a great website, and wonderful covers. If your writing includes the themes they publish, they could provide a very good home for your book.

For all submissions make sure that you include in a single document a 1-2 page synopsis of the manuscript (including word count), and the first 50 pages, as well as an author bio that includes credits, awards, and experience. If you have been publishing your work in

literary journals that will help your bio. Include a valid email address, mailing address, and phone number in the document.

They consider works that were previously self-published as long as you retain all rights to the publication. They ask that you include details about its previous publication.

Ashland Creek Press tries to respond to all submissions within 1-3 months. Do not query before 3 months have passed.

They also have a non-fiction animal anthology open to submissions which you can learn more about here.

To visit their main website click here. To learn more about what they have published visit their catalog here. To learn about their submission guidelines or to submit visit their Submittable page here.

August House

August House was established in 1978, originally it focused on publishing poetry but in the 80's their focus switched to folklore and after that to storytelling. They no longer publish poetry, instead they focus on publishing children's books, although many of these are influenced by folklore. They currently publish children's folktales, picture books, early-grade chapter books, and storytelling resource materials.

They were a originally based in Little Rock, Arkansas, but in 2004 they were purchased and the headquarters were moved to Atlanta, Georgia. They also have a now online imprint called Story Cove that focuses on global folk tales that work for classroom teaching. Their picture book imprint is called LittleFolk.

They have published a number of well known authors and illustrators. I highly encourage you to explore their back catalog to get a better feel for what they have previously published. I think that will give you a much better feel for what they are interested.

One of the things I found strange is that the submission form is on the bottom of every page of the website. However because the website is so busy, and full of so many books and other pieces of information, it can be hard to find, as usually the submission form is on a separate page. The other thing that is strange is that when you click on the submission guidelines button on the form you are redirected to the About Us page, which does not have any submission guidelines but contains a link to the submission guidelines page.

It is very confusing because on the submission guidelines page they says they can only accept submissions via mail, so please do not use the form. Please review the submission guidelines thoroughly before submitting.

You can visit their website here.

Barron's Educational Service

Most people who have studied for a test like the SAT or the GRE own a book published by Barron's, if only because they bought one of their many test prep books. That is what Barron's Educational Services is best known for and the reason it was founded in 1939. However, in recent years they have expanded and they also publish a wide variety of other genres including fiction.

They are currently interested in children and young adult fiction and nonfiction books, foreign language learning books, New Age books, cookbooks, business and financial advice books, parenting advice books, art instruction books, sports, fashion, crafts, and study guides.

Manuscript submissions must be made through mail, but if you query first with a letter you can do that through email. They accept simultaneous submissions. They are not interested in books that have been previously published.

Their complete submission guidelines are available online here.

When submitting a proposal for a children's fiction book:

Please include an outline summary
You may include sample pages (Please DO NOT include the manuscript in its entirety).

Artwork is not necessary, but is helpful if author is also the illustrator. Please only include a sample.
Author's credentials must be included.

When submitting a work of adult or Juvenile Nonfiction:

Include a Table of Contents, along with two sample chapters.
A brief description of the work should be included in the cover letter, as well as an overview citing the market being targeted (e.g., children, ages 2–4; secondary school teachers, etc.)
Please include sample illustrations if the book is to be illustrated.
Author's credentials must also be included.

All submissions should include a query letter. Do not send additional information beyond that. If they require additional information they will request it.

Browsing through their catalog will give you a good feel for what they have published in the past.

BelleBooks/BelleBridge

BelleBooks was founded in 1999 by a number of writers of Southern fiction. They focused on publishing works of Southern fiction before creating the now substantial imprint, BelleBridge, which is open to a wide variety of genres including cozy mysteries, women's fiction, romance, fiction, nonfiction, science fiction, horror, fantasy, young adult, mystery, suspense, and thrillers.

They are currently seeking manuscripts in some but not all of the genres they publish. They primarily publish hardcover books, but they have started to publish e-book versions simultaneously.

BelleBridge books have won major awards, been Kindle bestsellers, and been optioned to become TV shows. They have published a number of already established writers, and they have launched a number of previously unpublished authors into successful careers.

Over the years, they have developed a good reputation as a small publisher with a devoted and thoughtful staff. The books they publish receive publicity, and they make sure that each book has blurbs from other authors on the back, as well as a synopsis of the plot. Many authors appear to publish a whole series of books with them, which is a very good sign.

Because they are respected and they do a good job, publication slots can fill up quickly. They can only publish so many books of a certain genre each year. They try to respond to most submissions within three months, but it generally takes more like six months.

When you submit, you do so directly to the editor of your genre. Only mystery (non-cozy), suspense, and thrillers, are currently open to submissions at the time this review was published, but it is good to keep an eye on their site, because that often changes. When you submit work, you do so using your full manuscript attached to an email query letter.

There is a lot of information about their preferences, approach to publicity, covers, and a number of other things, on their website. I highly encourage you to spend some time reading the guidelines before submitting work.

You can read their submission guidelines and additional information here. To visit their website as a whole and to browse their past publication catalog, go to this page.

Black & White Publishing

Black & White Publishing was founded in 1995 and is now one of the largest Scottish publishers. They currently have over 200 books in print. They are based in Scotland, but they are open to publishing work by authors of any nationality or geographical location. They are an established publisher, among the many books they have published is the "Scots" ediion of the first Harry Potter Book.

They have good distributors, and they are starting to break into the e-book publishing world. They publish general nonfiction, biography, sports, and humor, as well as selected fiction, crime novels, young adult, and children's books.

They are currently accepting both solicited and unsolicited manuscripts that are fiction, nonfiction, and young adult. They have published a number of established authors of various nationalities. Their covers are generally well designed and appealing.

They prefer receiving submissions by email but are open to submissions by post. Attach to your email (that contains a query letter) a detailed synopsis outlining the whole manuscript and the first three chapters or first thirty pages of your manuscript. Attachments should all be Word documents. The words NEW SUBMISSION should be in the subject field.

They try to respond to all queries within three months. If you have not heard from them by that time, you must assume that your work has been rejected.

To learn more about Black & White Publishing, visit their website here. To learn more about submitting work, visit their submission guidelines here.

Blue Marlin Publications

Blue Marlin Publications is a small publisher of children's books based out of West Bay Shore in New York State. The editorial team has published some of their own books but they seem to focus now on primarily publishing the works of others. But this is a very small press, so do keep that in mind.

According to their About us page, Blue Marlin is primarily operated by one person, Francine Poppo Rich--whose books are also published by them, even though three people are listed on the masthead. They have been around since 1990, but their bookstore only has about 20 books; they seem to be focused on releasing books more regularly now, though.

All of their books have an educational element. They do not appear to have distribution, and their books do not seem to be available in bookstores or libraries. Keep these things in mind if you decide to submit.

One thing I liked about them is that all of their books have blurbs that match the educational interest of the book. The covers for their older titles are very hit-and-miss for me (leaning more towards miss), but the recent ones appear better.

It takes 3-9 months for them to respond to most submissions. They are currently accepting submissions of children's picture books and middle-grade historical fiction novels.

They do not accept submissions of picture books about dogs or cats. Nor do they publish stories that anthropomorphism, or stories written in verse, or those with holiday themes.

All submissions must be made via the mail. To learn more, visit their complete submission guidelines here.

Boyds Mill Press

Boyds Mill Press is owned by Highlights for Children. They are an award winning publisher of children's books.

The best way to get a feeling for what they publish is by reviewing their catalog. If you are considering submitting a picture book review the picture books. If you are considering submitting a book of poetry, review their poetry selection. Their catalog is organized by category. I would also encourage you to check a book or two of theirs out from your local library.

Their books have wonderful covers. Most of the books they sell are sold to classrooms or libraries, and there is a section of their website designated for teachers and librarians.

They accept unsolicited submission and respond to each in the order that they received them. If they are not interested in your work they will send out a form rejection letter. They do try to respond within three months, so if your submission has not been responded to after three months, you can query about the status of your submission.

They have a number of imprints. When you submit to them your work will be considered for all of their imprints too.

They publish picture books, collections of poetry, middle grade fiction, and non fiction. All submissions must be made through the

post. They do not accept email submissions. Include a self addressed and stamped envelope with all submissions.

For picture books and books of poetry they will only consider full manuscript submissions. Only submit the first three chapters for middle grade fiction.

To learn more visit their submission guidelines here.

Cactus Moon

Cactus Moon is interested in novels and non-fiction titles with a unique perspective; books that spark curiosity, and stimulate the imagination. While we understand the challenges of being an "indie," we recognize the freedom it allows to take chances on new talent and to work closely with authors to create unforgettable books.

Cactus Moon is a small independent publisher. They have been around for a few years now. They have recently hired fresh blood, so some of the early complaints in regards to wording on their website has been resolved. The editorial staff seems knowledgeable and approachable. They are new though, and are still becoming more experienced, so do take that into consideration when submitting.

They publish eBook and print editions. The print editions they publish are through various print on demand services. They do not have an established distributor (they use a combination of a local printer, CreateSpace, and Ingram). This is important to note because they will not be available in most bookstores.

They have three imprints listed in more detail below:

Kal-Ba Publishing accepts all non-fiction titles falling under the spiritual, paranormal (to include the occult), and self-help. We will

accept titles under specific genres such as: Christian, Jewish, Islam, Pagan, and other paths of faith. We will NOT accept any title whose content seeks to divide and/or alienate readers on another path.

Saturn's Moon Press is our YA and Children's press. Preference is given to books with illustrations included and may mean a higher royalty. We do provide illustrators for our titles so it is NOT a requirement for acceptance.

Cactus Moon Publications accepts non-fiction titles under the political, historical, and mainstream health and wellness genres. Fiction titles include crime, detective, and general romance, paranormal, horror, mysteries, and thrillers. Romance and mild erotica is acceptable under these genres. We have no limit on fear and excitement! We do not accept politically inflammatory titles or submissions without proper reference to information.

Cactus Moon, like most small publishers, expects help with marketing.

All submissions should be made via email. Expect a response within two months. To learn more about their submission guidelines visit their website here.

Cedar Fort

Cedar Fort is a print and electronic publisher based out of Salt Lake City. They are the second largest publisher in Utah. They publish over 150 books a year. Their books cover a wide range of topics, from cookbooks to juvenile fiction.

They are a Mormon publishing company, although publish books by non-Mormons, and books that have no Mormon subject matter at all. However they are not interested in publishing books that contain profanity, violence, graphic, and/or sexual content and they reserve the right to remove it from your book, if it is accepted for publication.

Cedar Fort has weathered a major controversy in the past, which you can learn more about here. But in the past few years I have heard mostly good things about them. They are often active with PitMad.

They are currently open to submissions in most genres, but they are *not* interested in memoirs (including missionary memoirs), travelogues, and biographies, non-LDS/Christian children's picture books, poetry, defenses of Mormonism, short stories, poetry, and erotica.

Their website is more geared towards recruiting writers than selling books, which is not a good sign. I also got that impression when I

visited their table at a writer's conference. However, the fact in and of itself that they visit major writer's conferences is a good sign.

They are open to publishing reprints and they offer advances. The typical advances they offer are around $2,000. Their editors are reputable and appear to do a very good job based on the books of theirs I have read. The covers are well designed and appealing.

It is easy to submit to them via Submittable.

You can learn more about Cedar Fort here.

Charlesbridge Publishing

Charlesbridge publishes high quality books for children and young adults with the goal of creating lifelong readers and lifelong learners. In 2010 Charlesbridge acquired Imagine Publishing which expanded what they were able to offer. They now have extensive audio offerings. They also publish adult nonfiction, cookbooks, and puzzle books.

Charlesbridge is still best known for their children's books which are widely available at bookstores and libraries. They have published a number of beloved and well reviewed children's books. In order to submit a children's book to them you must submit it via the post. They are only interested in complete manuscript submissions. Illustrators are also encouraged to submit, separately.

Please review their catalog online to see what kind of children's books they have previously published before proceeding.

Charlesbridge is just now starting to publish young adult fiction. They accept email or postal submissions of young adult fiction. They are only interested in complete manuscripts.

Imagine, their adult imprint publishes 8-10 new titles per year, primarily in the areas of history, women's studies, gender studies, multicultural studies, politics, nature and the environment, as well as

cooking, health, and wellness. All non fiction submissions should be made via email

In all categories they only respond to submissions that interest them. So do not include a self addressed and stamped envelope. However they expect all submissions to be exclusive submissions for three months. You should state "Exclusive Submission" on all correspondence. However after three months has passed, feel free to submit elsewhere.

To learn more visit their website here.

Chronicle Books

Chronicle is an established and respected publisher of cookbooks, gift books, anthologies, children's books, and various other books, most containing a strong visual element. They are based out of San Francisco. Their books receive a lot of positive attention and acclaim. This year one of the Children's books they published, *Flora and the Flamingo*, written and illustrated by Molly Idle, was a 2014 *Caldecott* honor winner. Many of the top cookbooks in the past five years have been published by them, including *Plenty* by Yotam Ottolenghi and the *Tartine* Cookbook. If you look through your own bookshelf, there are high odds that you own at least one book published by Chronicle.

Chronicle is one of the most established independent publishers and it is unusual that they consider unsolicited manuscript submissions without an agent. There is a slight catch of course, they do not actually respond to these proposals unless they are interested in accepting the book as a whole. So don't expect a rejection letter, although know that if they have not responded within three months they are most likely not interested in your book.

Perhaps this is for the best, because a number of years ago Chronicle Books got into trouble for referring people whose proposals were rejected to an assisted publishing company. An assisted publishing company charges people to publish their work and Chronicle is a

traditional publisher, it pays their authors. Part of an added complication to this whole situation was that Chronicle appeared to have been receiving money from the assisted publishers for this referral. The only reason that we are only reviewing and recommending Chronicle as a potential publisher because of the fact that this practice no longer takes place and has not for years.

Before submitting to them, browse through their catalog online or go to a local bookstore and find a couple of their books to peruse. This is a good way to see if your work might fit well with their catalog.

Make sure to review their submission guidelines carefully before submitting your work. They have separate guidelines for children's books, so make sure you are reviewing the correct guidelines for your manuscript. They accept manuscripts aimed at adults submitted electronically or through the mail.

They only consider manuscripts aimed at children if they are submitted via post. They consider simultaneous submissions as long as you alert them to the fact that you are submitting it elsewhere.

If you are considering submitting to them, please read their submission guidelines in order to learn more.

Clarion Books

Clarion Books is an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books, a publisher you have almost certainly heard of, as they are established, and have published many classics. None of Houghton Mifflin's other imprints are open to unsolicited submissions, just Clarion.

Clarion publishes books for children. They have published many classic children's books, both in terms of picture books and novels. To get a better feel for what authors they have previously published, you can visit this page. They publish about 50 books a year.

They are accepting unsolicited novels, non-fiction, and picture books. However, they are not responding to submissions they are not interested in. If you have not heard from them after 12 weeks assume rejection. In the past they have published a number of previously unpublished authors who submitted via the slush pile.

They are asking for submissions of complete manuscripts for both picture books and novels. For non-fiction submit a synopsis and some sample chapters. All submissions must be made through the mail. It is also worth noting that they accept submissions from illustrators, and not just for the Clarion imprint but others as well.

To learn more, visit their submission guidelines here.

Clean Reads

Astrea Press officially launched in 2010 and published its first e-book in early 2011. It was founded because the owner, Stephanie Taylor saw a gap in the e-book market when it came to *wholesome* mainstream romance novels. Astrea does not publish anything erotic. To this end, in the last year they seem to have re-branded as Clean Reads.

They were primarily a romance publisher when they first started out but their focus seems to have shifted in the last year or so, and they are now open to all fiction genres, although they still publish a lot of romance.

Clean Reads gives their authors a fair contract. Authors receive 50% of the royalties from sales on the Astrea website and 40% of sales from third-party websites (they also sell their books through Amazon and Barnes and Noble).

They are also open to making print editions of books that are longer than 50,000 words. They allow their authors to work one-on-one with their cover artist in order to create a cover that properly represents the book. After all, they say you can't judge a book by its cover, but a lot of people buy them based on the cover anyway.

Their authors are also represented by an agency for foreign and audio rights. Astrea always encourages direct communication between the author and the other people working on the book, including copy editors and agents. All books will be thoroughly edited before publication, but that editing will happen with the authors knowledge, consent, and contributions. They also make sure that authors can buy copies at a discounted price, although they don't go into specifics on their website.

They accept all genres of fiction. They also publish books for young adults, so they are open to those works as well. They do not publish work that is less than 15,000 words or more than 100,000.

Their website is currently under construction so there is not much information on it, but they are active on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat in the meantime so that is a good start.

They only accept unagented submissions through emailed submissions. You can learn more about Clean Reads by visiting their website here.

Clean Teen Publishing

Clean Teen Publishing is a small publisher started a number of years ago. They publish print and electronic versions of books. All of the books they publish are aimed at teens. Their selling point, and the reason they are named what they are, is that all books come with a really clear rating system, that they refer to as content disclosure. This is an unusual concept, and while I can see how it would appeal to parents, I am not sure how attractive it would be to most teenagers.

This is the way the rating system works. They have three levels of rating, the first is YA E which is appropriate for everyone, including advanced readers, ages 12 and under. The second is YA which is appropriate for young adults age 13 and over. The third is YA M which means the book is written for a mature young adult audience. The system for how each books get rated is really clear, and there are image indicators on all the covers of why the book got the rating it did (for example a miniature gun indicates violence, which on a YA E book could mean a punch and on a YA M book could mean death). To learn more about the system read the full guidelines here.

The publisher has good distribution in bookstores and libraries and seems to have established a good, although often series dependent strategy for selling eBooks on Amazon. Their books have received a fair amount of attention from reviewers of all kinds. Their covers are

generally good. Their website is also orientated towards readers, not writers, always a good sign.

To learn more about how their submission process works, go here.

Dawn Publications

Dawn Publications is a boutique print press focused on publishing books connecting children and nature. They usually just publish six books a year. Their niche focus really seems to pay off; their books have gone on to win a wide variety of awards. Dawn was founded in 1979. The Our Mission Page, although a little tricky to find without a direct link, is well worth the read.

Their books have a clear goal, which is explained below.

Dawn's "nature awareness" titles—almost always picture books—are intended to encourage an appreciation for nature and a respectful participation in it. We want to inspire children as well as educate them. An inspired child is a motivated child.

They accept submissions from authors and illustrators and have separate guidelines for both.

They describe most of what they publish as creative non-fiction, and go into details about the kind they are seeking, below.

Dawn specializes in "creative non-fiction." We suggest you read a short article on the subject, How to Use Creative Nonfiction Picture Books in Support of Common Core and Science. Dawn generally does not publish "straight" non-fiction without some other feature that will capture a child's attention. There may be a story such as

Eliza and the Dragonfly or *Molly's Organic Farm* that presents the opportunity to talk about nature. There may be a song as in *Over in the Ocean*. Or there may be cumulative verse as in *Under One Rock*. Or there may be an adventure such as may be found in nature every day, as in *The Mouse and the Meadow*.

For writers submitting stories, it is important to remember that the work be suitable to supplement a school curriculum in some way. Most of what they publish are illustrated children's books, but they do publish the occasional non-illustrated book aimed at middle grade readers.

They accept submissions by email and mail. To read their full guidelines, go here. Make sure to review them thoroughly and examine their past publication catalogue before submitting work to them for consideration.

Dial Books For Young Readers

Dial Books For Young Readers publishes hardcover books aimed at children of all ages, including young adults. They are an imprint of Penguin that accepts unsolicited submissions. The catch? They do not respond to unsolicited submissions unless they are interested in the book. That means don't expect a rejection from Dial, personal or otherwise. If you have not heard from them in four months, they have rejected your work.

Dial publishes around 70 new books a year. Many of the books they publish are picture books. It has published a huge number of New York Times bestsellers. It was one of the first places to publish quality board books in the US. Dial has published a lot of character driven middle reader and young adult books by authors like Marilyn Nelson, Catherine Fisher, and Holly Goldberg Sloan.

The books they have published have gone on to win most of the major awards for children's books, including the Caldecott Medal and the Newbery Medal.

All unsolicited submissions must be made via the post. Do not include a self addressed and stamped envelope as you will not hear from them unless they are interested in your manuscript.

If you are submitting a picture book, submit the entire manuscript. If you are submitting a longer work only submit the first 10 pages.

They are not interested in original artwork, audio cds, or marketing plans. Please do not query them if you do not hear from them.

You can learn more about Dial on their Penguin web page here. But their submission guidelines are actually a one page PDF that you can download here.

Eifrig

Eifrig Publishing is a small independent publishing company that focuses on publishing print children's books. They also publish family psychology books, some nonfiction for adults, and books on education. They publish some e-books. Their motto is "good for our kids, good for our environment, and good for our communities."

Their website is easy to navigate, but they don't mention much about distributors, contracts, or anything along those lines. However, they are focused on selling books, over recruiting new authors, which is a good sign.

The *About* page states that the company was founded in 1996, but it also states that they published their first manuscript in 2006. I do not know if this is a typo or not. I also do not like the fact that the owner of the company has self-published a number of her own books under the company's name.
The covers of the books themselves vary in quality, although the children's books appear to be thoughtfully illustrated.

They have very specific book proposal guidelines that focus a lot on marketing and expect a fair amount of market research. However, they are open to proposals even if the manuscript is incomplete, which is unusual.

You can read their complete submission guidelines here. You can browse their website here.

Entangled Teen

Entangled Teen is the YA imprint of the romance publisher Entangled Publishing. Entangled Publishing is a newer company but they have had a lot of success in the genre of romance and they have sold a lot of books. They primarily operate on a digital first model, which usually means print runs only happen if/when the digital book has been successful.

They do publish a lot of work every month, which is a little intimidating, because one does not want their book to be lost in the shuffle. But the books generally have great covers and Entangled Publishing says that they make individual marketing plans for all their books.

Entangled Teens has three separate imprints. The first called Entangled Teen is looking for romance novels, or novels with strong romantic elements that are between 70k and 120k words in length. The works they publish include contemporary romance, science fiction, paranormal, fantasy, historical, and romantic suspense and thrillers. You can learn more about what they are specifically seeking here.

Teen Crave is looking for shorter work, between 45K and 65K in length in the paranormal/scifi/fantasy genre. The main characters of these work must be between 16 and 18 years in age. You can learn more about their specific submission guidelines here.

Teen Crush is seeking work between 40K and 60K that is contemporary romance. They publish trope based stories featuring

main characters between the ages of 16-18. You can learn more here.

All of the teen imprints are open to f/m, f/f, and m/m, pairings. In all the catagories they helpfully list authors they love as well as tv relationships that they love. So it is rather easy to get a feeling for what they are looking for. All submissions are accepted online. You can learn more about overall submissions here.

Filles Vertes Publishing

Filles Vertes Publishing was founded in 2016. It is a new publisher with only a few books under their belt and a few forthcoming books as well. They have print and electronic versions of all their books. They accept submissions of middle grade readers, young adult books, adult fiction, and adult fiction in all genres, which is a broad spectrum to publish. They have previously published a historical thriller/mystery, a memoir about life at sea, and a mystery book set in the Pacific Northwest.

Because they are such a new publisher, one should always proceed with caution. Most new publishers fail within the first three years. They have a large staff for such a small publisher, and I was glad to see that they did have someone exclusively focused on marketing. Although none of their staff are particularly experiences.

Filles Vertes also had a number of things going for them. They have a well designed website and excellent covers. The books that they have published so far appear to have sold well and to have generally positive reviews. They also have an active Facebook page and Twitter account. They participate in a number of Twitter-based pitch fests, and not just #PitMad (which you can learn more about here).

To query them they ask that you just send your query letter and the first chapter of your book. This is true for all categories except

informative non-fiction, which has separate guidelines. To read their full submission guidelines, go here. The additional information provided by their acquisitions editor C.L. Rose is also very much worth a read.

Flashlight Press

Flashlight Press focuses on publishing illustrated children's books. Their books are a lot of fun to read and very well illustrated. They receive a lot of good reviews and are pretty widely available, even outside of the United States. If you are considering submitting to them and are unfamiliar with their books, look for one to read at your local library.

Flashlight Press has won a number of awards for the books they publish, and many of the individual books have received awards. The awards Flashlight Press and individual books have won include: ABC Best of Books Catalog, Comstock Read Aloud Book Award, NY State Charlotte Award, and many others. Flashlight Press has been publishing books since 2006, and all of their back catalog remains in print.

Flashlight Press only publishes two to four books a year. They do not require you to have an agent or previous publishing experience. The editor tries to respond to queries as quickly as possible. The books they publish are targeted at four-to eight-year-olds. The book should be between 500 and 1,000 words in length. It should have a universal theme and deal with a family or social situation.

To submit work to them, you must first email a query letter to the editor; it must not have any attachments, and all the information should be in the body of the email. If they want to see your full manuscript, they will reply within a month.

If your manuscript is requested, they will respond with an acceptance or rejection letter within four months of receiving your manuscript. Unless you are an artist, they do not want to see any artwork with your submission. If you are an artist, there is an additional set of guidelines to follow. To learn more visit their website here.

Flux

Flux is an imprint of North Star Editions that publishes exclusively young adult fiction. Their motto is "Where Young Adult is a Point of View, not a Reading Level". Most of the books they publish focus on the older end of the young adult market. They publish edgier, darker stuff, than other young adult publishers. They publish all sub genres of young adult from realistic life stories to sci fi. They are established, have good distribution, and have published many books that have sold well.

Submitting to them is easy and done via email.

To have Flux consider your book for publication, please provide the following two items:

- A query letter (in the body of the e-mail) including:
    - A brief 1-2 paragraph plot synopsis
    - A short bio mentioning your previous publications and writing credentials
    - 3-5 comparative books published within the last 5 years with an explanation of how your book both ties into a trend in the Young Adult genre and offers something unique
    - Your e-mail address and phone number

- The first three chapters of your book in an attached Word document

By reviewing their recent releases it is easy to figure out what kind of work they publish.

To learn more or to submit, visit their website here.

Free Spirit Publishing

Free Spirit Publishing is an established publisher with good distribution. They publish primarily non-fiction, mostly curriculum based, where they have a number of niche focuses.

They do publish fiction but only in the form of board books (aimed at infants to 4-year-olds) and picture books (for ages 4 to 8) that focus on social skills and getting along, early learning, character education, self-esteem, and other topics related to positive early childhood development.

They are also open to non-fiction board and picture books with the same subject matters.

Their areas of focus in non-fiction include the following topics: Gifted & special education, bullying prevention & conflict resolution, character education, leadership & service learning, educational games, posters, & jars, counseling & social-emotional learning. More information about what specifically they are looking for is available on their submission guidelines page.

If you are interested in submitting you must first submit a proposal.

It is important to note that they do not write rejections. If you do not hear from them after six months or so, consider your proposal rejected. They always contact authors whose work they are

interested in. This is a particularly frustrating considering the fact that they do not accept electronic submissions. All submissions must be made through the post.

If you are submitting a proposal it must include the following:

- A cover letter briefly outlining your project, the intended audience (including age ranges), and your relevant expertise
- A current résumé
- A market analysis with a comprehensive list of similar titles and a detailed explanation of how your project differs from available products
- A detailed chapter-by-chapter outline
- At least two sample chapters (if a full manuscript is available, you may send it) **Note:** *For early childhood submissions, the entire text is required for evaluation. Bracketed art suggestions are appreciated, though illustration samples should not be sent unless professionally competent.*
- A description of your personal promotion plan for the proposed book (including both in-person and social media outreach)

To learn more about Free Spirit and see the books they have previously published, visit their website.

GemmaMedia

GemmaMedia is an independent publisher that has managed to get a fair amount of distribution. GemmaMedia focuses on niche markets. They publish "cultural memoir for young people and adults, literary fiction from beloved Irish authors, and current affairs publishing with diversity at the heart of the story".

They are not interested in books outside of these genres.

GemmaMedia has been around for 10 years now. They appear to operate on a very traditional contract based system, however how much they would offer a writer in terms of royalties is unknown.

The covers are well done and many of the books are burbled by established writers and academics which is a very good sign. Most books they publish appear to be between 150-250 pages in length. They seem to publish around 8 or so books a year, which means that they only accept a very limited amount of manuscripts.

They do not accept full manuscript submissions. When you submit to them include the working title of the manuscript as well as an alternative title, a one paragraph synopsis of your work, the estimated length of your book, a sample chapter, a brief biography, and a table of contents with a maximum of two sentences describing each chapter. Also include a potential completion time, information

about the intended audience and competing or related books, as well any marketing opportunities you might have in relation to the book.

They accept submissions of query letters through email only, they are not interested in submissions by post. They try to respond to most queries within a month, and if you have not heard back from them in two months, you should email them again to inquire about the submission of your status.

To learn more or to submit visit their website here. Because of the specificity of their niche markets it is very helpful to browse the books listed in their shop before submitting.

Gibbs Smith

Gibbs Smith is an established publisher with good distribution and a focus on cook books, interior design and architecture books, and board books for children. They have published a number of bestsellers, including a board book version of Pride & Prejudice. Gibbs Smith is primarily a non-fiction publisher which is just now entering the fiction market for adults and middle readers.

For small children they publish activity books, picture books, and board books. They have already had a fair amount of success in this genre.

They accept all submissions via email, and do not accept any mailed submissions. They have different email addresses for different categories of submissions and have specific requirements for each one, so please read carefully about the category you are considering submitting to. Some categories require full manuscripts, others partial.

They do not respond to submissions they are not interested in. If you have not heard from them in 12 weeks, it is safe to assume they are not interested in your manuscript.

To learn more, please visit their submission guidelines here.

Hohm Press

A small print publisher based out of Arizona, Hohm has been around for many years. They are a respected press that has published a number of well known authors. The publish a wide variety of genres, including poetry, non-fiction, and children's books. They generally focus on eastern religion and spirituality. They are not interested in fiction or short story collections.

Their website is very basic. It is not very easy to navigate and it is hard to find out information about the press itself on the website. I also noticed a couple of minor, confusing errors. The majority of sales they make are elsewhere on the web or in brick and mortar bookstores, so it makes sense that not that much effort is put into their website.

The covers of their books are largely well designed and appealing.

You must query first. They are not interested in unsolicited manuscripts, only queries. When you query them include a query letter and a small representative sample from the book. It should not be more than 20 pages in length.

It is important to note that while they publish children's books they are about nursing and breastfeeding and they are aimed at children and parents, so this is not the best place to submit most children book manuscripts to.

To learn more visit their submission guidelines here. Before you submit your query, I highly recommend that you review their catalog.

Holiday House

Holiday House is an established and reputable children's book publishers. Holiday House has been around for over 75 years. They publish picture books as well as books aimed at children grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7 and up. They are based out of New York City. They have published many well known books and authors, including Kenneth Grahame. The books that they have published have won numerous respected awards and honors.

They specialize in quality hardcovers, from picture books to young adult, both fiction and nonfiction.

Because they receive so many submissions they cannot respond to all of them personally. Although if they are interested in your manuscript, they will respond within four months of receiving it. If you have not heard from them in four months, consider your manuscript rejected.

Submit your entire manuscript, even if you are submitting a novel. They only accept submissions through the mail. They do not accept registered or certified mail and there is no need to include a self addressed and stamped envelope.

If you are submitting a picture book, there is no need to submit illustrations, but if you are an artist that has them, include copies, never originals.

To learn more or to submit, visit their website here.

Hotkey Books

Hotkey Books is an imprint of Bonnier Publishing, which is part of the much larger international Bonnier a large media group.

Hotkey Books is based in the UK. They publish books for kids and teens between the ages of eight and eighteen. The cover art for these books is exceptional. They also have a great, easy-to-use website. They even have a map to encourage people to visit them if they are in the UK. I think that their catalog is the best part, and very unique. I encourage you to check it out, in part because it will give you a better idea of what they are looking for.

Their staff list is very impressive; most of the people working there have a great deal of experience. The managing editor previously worked for a number of big name publishers including Penguin and Bloomsbury.
Hotkey Books has some established and respected authors on their list already, including Garth Nix. Hotkey Books has already published a lot of books in a wide variety of genres.

They are open to unsolicited submissions. Submitting work is very easy to do. Just email them a synopsis and the full edited manuscript of your book (as an attachment). They do not respond to every submission, only the ones they are interested in pursuing. So, if you

have not heard back from them after six months or so, it is safe to assume they are not interested in your novel.

To learn more or to submit, visit their website here.

Immedium

Immedium was founded in 2004 and is led by experienced professionals, who have written critically acclaimed books, marketed print and digital media, and sold #1 nationwide best-sellers. *Aquanauts*, a series of books they published, was turned into a successful TV show for children.

Immedium is interested in three types of books, according to their website, and is specific about the kind of stories they want (and do not want):

1. Children's Picture Books:
The general format is 32-pages with color illustrations for ages 4-8 or 6-10.

2. Asian-American:
Contemporary viewpoints on our evolving national identity, and changes that have universal resonance.

3. Arts and Culture:
Cutting-edge commentary on the intersection of popular culture, social trends, and our modern lifestyle.

We seek writers, illustrators, and artists who have provocative tales to tell and the talent to convey them. A publisher's responsibility is to marry words with pictures to create a unique message. So please

do not submit proposals that duplicate our existing books. Also do not submit children's picture books which you consider to be complete with "finished art", since we want the flexibility to help improve and refine your concept.

There were two things on their website that made me a little worried. The first is that they had a Kickstarter campaign for one of their forthcoming books. What I mean by this is that they use Kickstarter, a crowd funding website to raise money to help publish their book. In exchange the individuals who help fund the book get rewards depending on how much they contribute. The reward details are outlined on the Kickstarter website but in the case of fundraising for books, the prizes often include copies of the book. So in a round about way it can be a lot like pre-sales. Bestselling books and established publishers (like McSweeny's) have started to make using Kickstarter more common in publishing. However it is still rather unusual for an established publisher to go this route.

The other is this sentence on their website: "Therefore our standard book contracts include royalties, though some projects may require work for hire compensation".

But that said their books looked wonderful and I recognized a number of their titles. They seem to do a good job promoting their books and understanding marketing.

They ask that all submissions include a cover letter, a proposal, and a resume, as well as a sample of your story or illustration.

To learn more, please visit their website here.

JollyFish Press

JollyFish Press was started in 2012. They are based out of Provo, Utah. Jollyfish has a major distributor and a large staff for a relatively new press. Their authors have won numerous awards. They initially published a wide range of genres for adults, children, and young adults.

However in the past year or so they have started to focus only on middle-grade and young adult books. They especially want books showcasing strong voices, unique stories, and diverse characters. The reason they stopped publishing adult books appears to be that North Star Editions bought them out around a year ago.

Their covers are well designed and appealing. It is easy to get a better idea of what they publish by browsing their titles. Their website is well organized and easy to navigate. It is oriented more towards selling books than recruiting authors.

Around six months ago North Star Editions purchased JollyFish. Since than things might have changed. In the past few months **Authors have reporting unfair practices on Twitter here and you can learn more here. So I would offer a word of caution to anyone thinking about submitting to them.**

You can learn more about the press and their staff, on the about us page. The information included in the acquisitions editors bios are

particularly helpful to help you know more about what they are interested in specifically.

To query them about a manuscript please send one a one page query letter, a one page synopsis that includes spoilers, and the first three chapters. Your manuscript must already be complete.

To learn more or to submit, visit their website here.

Kane Miller

Kane Miller is an award winning publisher of educational children's books. Their most famous book to date is the children's classic *Everyone Poops*. They have good distribution, their books are widely available at libraries, and they generally do an excellent job.

Their website is easy to navigate and there is a lot of content there so I really encourage you to look through it before submitting to them.

They are open to unsolicited submissions and try to respond within 8 to 10 weeks. They ask that you do not query about the status of your submission.

They are currently focused on expanding their picture book list and are interested in stories with engaging characters. They specify that they are especially interested in those with particularly American subjects. They also consider board books, activity books, gift books, and series fiction. They are not interested in holiday themed books or any book that has been previously self published.

They only accept submissions via email. They do not open any attachments so include all the requested information in the body of the email. They are also open to art submissions.

To read their full submission guidelines go here.

Lakewater Press

Lakewater Press is a newer eBook and print on demand (POD) publisher. They were founded in early 2015. They publish a wide variety of fiction. They appear to be open to all genres of fiction including young adult, new adult (18-30), and romance.

It is important to keep in mind that at this point they have only published 4 books although they have a number planned for release later this year.

They have a small but hard to navigate website. Links that seem clickable don't work. I personally do not like their covers. Most of the website seems to be illustrated by the same person.

Lakewater Press has a small editorial team, whose previous experience is mostly from the writing side of the table. One of their editors appears to also be published by the press. The rest do not seem to be.

In the about us section of the website they break down which editors are open to submissions and which ones are not. They also go into editors personal preferences which can be very helpful.

Put your name and which editor you believe to be the best fit, in your subject line. Submit a cover letter and the first chapter in the body of an email to contact@lakewaterpress.com.

Read their full submission guidelines here.

LEE & LOW BOOK's

LEE & LOW BOOK's motto is "About Everyone. For Everyone". They focus on publishing multicultural children's books. They are the largest multicultural book publisher in the United States. The books they publish largely have an educational element and they offer books for readers starting at the age of 4 and going all the way up to age 18. They are an independent publisher that has published hundreds of books and been around for twenty five years. In 2014 they were named "Indie Publisher of the Year".

LEE & LOW have clear perimeters in terms of what they are looking. As they state on their site:

Our story began with a simple mission: to publish contemporary diverse stories that *all* children could enjoy. We decided to steer clear of folktales since they tended to be about people who lived a long time ago. In contrast, we wanted our books to emphasize the richness of today's cultures. We also avoided talking animal stories since there was nothing new we could bring to this genre. And **we pledged to make a special effort to work with unpublished authors and illustrators of color.**

In their submission guidelines they also talk in more specific terms about what they are looking for.

Our goal is to meet the need for books that address children of color by providing books that all children can enjoy and which promote a greater understanding of one another. We publish multicultural literature that is relevant to young readers.

Our focus is on **fiction and nonfiction** featuring children/people of color, for readers ages 5 to 12. Of special interest are realistic fiction, historical fiction, and nonfiction with a distinct voice or unique approach. We **do not** publish folklore and animal stories.

LEE & LOW BOOKS is dedicated to publishing culturally authentic literature. We make a special effort to work with writers and artists of color and to encourage new voices. We consider unsolicited manuscripts and art samples from writers and artists at all levels of experience.

They only accept submissions by email. To learn more visit their submission guidelines here.

March 4th Inc.

March 4th Inc is the re-branded name of Little Pickle Press. Little Pickles Press was bought by SourceBooks last year. However they now have three imprints, one is called Little Pickle Stories, the other two are named Big Dill Stories and Relish Stories. They have good distribution. The covers are generally excellent.

Little Pickle Stories are books aimed at 0-10 year olds. Big Dill Stories are aimed at 11-14 year olds. Relish Stories is aimed at readers 15 and up.

All of the manuscripts that they publish focus on conveying meaningful messages aimed at children or youth. They hope that the books they publish instigate conversations between parents and children and teachers and students. we select involve conveying meaningful messages to children or youth.

Currently they are most interested in middle grade readers and young adult manuscript submissions.

They have a lengthy list of subject matters and themes that they are most interested in. The list includes refugees, adoption, anti-princess themes, creativity, and systems thinking.

They allow for simultaneous submissions but they ask that simultaneous submitters make sure to answer the question "Why I am a good fit?".

All submissions must be made through the submission manager authors.me. They are easy to use.

To learn more go to their submission guidelines here. Their submission guidelines are particularly lengthy and detailed so please review them carefully before submitting.

Maverick Children's Books

Maverick Children's Books is a UK based publisher of children's books. Their books generally have wonderful covers and illustrations, and are quirky. They publish a variety of books for children but only appear to be open to submissions in the picture book category. You can learn more about the team behind Maverick here.

I do not know how good their distribution is, in the UK or outside of it.

They are open to unsolicited submissions and have a video of tips for submitting to them that they strongly suggest that you watch.

Books submitted to them can be no more than 650 words in length, and can be considerably less. No minimum count is mentioned. The manuscript must be submitted through email as a PDF, RTF or a Word document.

They want submissions that are not illustrated. In the subject heading of your email include your name and the name of the book. Multiple submissions are allowed (which is surprisingly rare). They just ask that you put it all in the same email. Also make sure to include a cover letter and your name in the email.

They have a six-month turnaround time, and encourage you to fill out an inquiry form after six months have passed.

To learn more about submitting them, visit their website here.

MB Publishing

MB Publishing is a small press based out of Bethesda, Maryland. They focus on publishing children's books and Judiaca (things pertaining to Jewish life and customs) also largely aimed at children. MB Publishing was founded over 5 years ago by Margie Blumberg as more or less a self-publishing operation. She still continues to publish her own work through MB Publishing. There is an old interview about the details of that here.

I hesitated to review MB Publishing because of that, however, they have published a number of other authors over the years and their books all appear to be professional-looking. The quality of the books appears much better than most presses that started out as (and continue to be) self-publishing projects, at least in part.

The website is well-organized and easy to use. It is easy to buy books through the website and the focus is on readers, not authors. A number of the books have been positively reviewed in newspapers and by professional book reviewers, and a few have won minor awards.

They have published largely picture books but are open to submissions of novellas, novels, and non-fiction (all aimed at children, presumably).

If you are submitting a picture book, submit the complete manuscript. If submitting a larger work, just send in the first two chapters. They accept submissions by email and post but different response protocols are in place for each, which they make clear on their website.

You can learn more by reading their complete submission guidelines here.

Mighty Media Press

Mighty Media Press publishes children's books, mostly picture books but also those aimed at middle grade readers. Their books have beautiful illustrations.

Mighty Media Presses website is not like most book publishers. It does not focus on promoting a catalog or trying to recruit new authors, in fact it took me a little bit to figure out that they were a book publisher at all, although their logo looked rather familiar to me from the start.

When I did find their catalog it quickly became clear that I had seen many of the books they have published before, not just in bookstores, but in Target and other big box stores. They have very thorough distribution and their *Monster & Me* series of picture books by Paul Czajak, illustrated by Disney storyboard artist Wendy Grieb, are all bestsellers.

Mighty Media Press started out under another name, and has a less than perfect history and you can read a little bit about that here and here and here. But they seem to be doing a good job now.

They receive thousands of submissions each year and publish about six annually, so it is very few authors whose work they actually accept. It is also important to note that they regularly close to submissions when they have too big a backlog to read, but seem to

re-open to submissions regularly and you will be alerted of this if you add your email to the list on their submission page.

To learn more and to submit, go to their guidelines here.

Nobrow Press and Flying Eye

Nobrow Press is a respected publisher of graphic novels and Flying Eye is their children's book imprint. Flying Eye publishes both fiction and nonfiction picture books. Nobrow Press and Flying Eye are both different from what we normally review because they are looking for either an author/illustrator or an already formed author/illustrator pair with a book to pitch. They do seem to make exceptions, but for the most part they are not interested in matching illustrators with authors.

Nobrow Press and Flying Eye are both known for their wonderful covers, attention to detail, and great illustrations. Reviewing their catalog should give you a good idea of what they are interested in publishing.

For picture books, they require a brief synopsis of the story. They accept submissions for picture books between 24 pages and 32 pages in length. Children's non-fiction books can be up to 90 pages. They require that you send the complete first draft of your text. If you are an illustrator/author or part of an illustrator and author duo, you should include two finished double page spreads.

For graphic novels, they require a full synopsis of the story. If you are illustrator/author or an illustrator and author duo, please send a minimum of 10 finished pages of the book.

All submissions must be made through email.

Read their submission guidelines here.

Nosy Crow

Nosy Crow is a UK-based publisher of children's books and apps aimed at children. They accept international submissions from all over, but everyone outside of the UK must submit via email (which is their preferred method of submission). They have wide distribution within the UK. The books they published are aimed at children up to the age of 14, although the bulk of what they publish is for children under the age of 12. The young adult books that they do publish are not issue-based, and should not involve drugs, sex, or violence. Most of the apps they publish are aimed at kids between the ages of 2-7.

Nosy Crow has mostly excellent covers and strong branding.

If you submit to them, it is important to note that they do not acknowledge receipt of submission. They try (but often fail) to respond to all submissions within 6 months. If you have not heard from them in six months, you should assume that your book was rejected.

They are willing to consider previously self-published work, as long as you have a track record of success.

For picture books please include the entire text, for longer books just include a short synopsis plus the first chapter. Make sure you include a cover letter for all submissions.

To read their full submission guidelines, go here. To get a better feel for what they have previously published, go here.

Pajama Press

Pajama Press is a publisher of books for children and young adults. They focus on publishing literary works. They publish books that fall into a wide range of categories including: picture books, board books for the very young, middle-grade novels, young adult novels, and non-fiction for all juvenile categories.

Pajama Press has good distribution and I have encountered their books at various bookstores and libraries. Their books are reviewed by the New York Times and other reputable publications.

They were established in 2011 so they are a relatively young press. They were founded by three individuals who all had over twenty years of experience publishing or editing children's books.

Their books have won a wide variety of awards, mostly in Canada, as they are a Canadian publisher. Most Canadian publishers only accept books by Canadian authors due to government funding. However there is currently no mention of submission restrictions based on nationality on their website.

They only accept unsolicited queries (so do not submit manuscripts) from authors without agents. They only respond to queries that they are interested in, but they try to respond to those queries within three months. If you have not heard from them after three months it is safe to assume that they are not interested in seeing your manuscript.

They do not publish series or books that are specifically aimed at the educational market.

In your query include a summary of your book, an excerpt (one or two pages of your book), and information about your writing background.

To learn more about the books Pajama Press has previously published, visit their main page here. To learn more about their query submission guidelines visit this page.

The Parliament House

The Parliament House is a small eBook and print press started in 2016. They specialize in fantasy, including paranormal, contemporary, and urban. Their website is well designed and the covers are well designed and market appropriate. They seem active on social media and more focused on recruiting readers than writers.

The fantasy novels they tend to list as favorites are aimed at young adults, although they themselves do not say that they are a young adult publisher.

There are a few warning signs, besides being new, the staff behind The Parliament House Press has no real past publishing experience. Also they have published a number of their own books through the press. They also really place emphasis on the author promoting their work.But they do say they design a specific and detailed marketing plan for each book they publish.

I wasn't sure about this line from their website "(your book) should have already gone through rounds of beta reading, editing, sweat, and tears. We will not accept the half-baked." What worries me about this is the implication that the publishing house will not provide additional editing. I do think all submissions to publishers should be edited and polished to be taken seriously, but that doesn't

mean that the press itself should not further edit the work. They do not make it clear that they will do that.

They ask that all work be between 50,000 and 140,000 words in length.

They notably accept previously self published books, which is rare. They ask that authors send a query letter along with the first three chapters.

To learn more, go to their submission guidelines here.

Peachtree Publishers

Peachtree Publishers is a well respected independent publisher with good distribution. They are based out of Atlanta Georgia and they specialize in publishing children's books, young adult books, self help titles for parents and educators and guides to the American south. They also publish books on gardening and cookbooks, but usually only with a southern focus.

They are a general trade publisher which means that they publish books that are sold in book stores and found in libraries and schools. They do not publish professional or scholarly books or textbooks, even though their books are used in classroom settings. It is good to review their catalog to get a better idea about what they have previously published.

They accept unsolicited submissions and have clear submission guidelines, but do be warned that it takes up to a year for them to respond to most submissions.

They are currently accepting submissions in the following two categories.

- Children's fiction and nonfiction picture books, chapter books, middle readers, young adult books
- Education, parenting, self-help, and health books of interest to the general trade

Peachtree only reads query letters if there is a manuscript or sample chapters attached. You must submit a full manuscript for a picture book. For all other books you can send a full manuscript or the table of contents plus three sample chapters.

All submissions must be made through the mail. Their complete submission guidelines can be found here.

To learn more you can visit their website here.

Pelican Publishing Company

Pelican Publishing Company is a publisher based out of New Orleans. They have been around for the a long time and they published William Faulkner's first trade paperback book. They have a back list of over 2,500 titles. They publish between forty to seventy new titles yearly. They focus on publishing art/architecture books, cooking/cookbooks, motivational, popular history (especially Louisiana/regional), children's books (illustrated and otherwise), and social commentary. They also add that "We will consider almost any well-written work by an author who understands promotion."

Their website is outdated and visually overwhelming, but otherwise easy to navigate. I like that they clearly promote regular readings from their authors (on the left hand side of the page). I did think that many of the covers were also lacking visually, and looked dated. I think part of this comes from them being primarily a regional publisher, focused on the south.

I also think that before submitting you should read their glassdoor reviews, which are not the most positive, but do have helpful, concrete, information.

Browsing through their catalog does help you get a feel for what they publish, and what they say sells. You can access their catalog here.

I do think that you lived in the southern united states going with this publisher would be more beneficial to you than if you lived somewhere. That is where their customer and knowledge base seems to be. Although they are open to submissions regardless of authors nationality and current location.

They have very detailed submission guidelines that you should review thoroughly before submitting. They have separate guidelines for children's picture books, but all other books have the same guidelines.

To learn more read their submission guidelines here.

Penny Candy Books

Penny Candy Books is a publishing company focused on children's picture books that was founded in 2015 by two poets who met in graduate school. It is a newer company but they seem off to a good start with interviews in various established publications and by publishing eight books, most to positive reviews by places like Kirkus. Their plan from here on out is to publish 5-8 books a year.

Their mission statement is as follows "Penny Candy's mission is to publish children's literature that reflects the diverse realities of the world we live in, both at home and abroad. This means seeking out books by and about people and subjects that speak to a broad range of human experience."

On their submission page they go into further detail "In the spirit of penny candy, Penny Candy Books offers affordable, eye-catching children's books that promote the value of diversity—in authors, characters & stories, and readers. We believe children's literature *must* reflect the diverse realities of the world we live in. We're interested in complex stories that raise questions rather than simplistic stories with easy answers. Kids are too smart for the latter. "

Their website is beautiful, easy to navigate, and visually appealing. It is easy to buy books on the site, which is always a good sign. I

have not been able to find out anything about their print distribution, which is the only potential warning sign I saw.

They accept all submissions through the submission manager Submittable. Their submission guidelines are clear but brief. I really encourage anyone who is thinking of submitting to browse their back catalog to get a better feel for what they publish.

Persea Books

Persea Books is an independent book publisher based out of New York that was established in the 1970s. Since then, they have gained a reputation for publishing thoughtful books in a variety of literary genres.

They have an extensive catalog and a fairly good distribution network. You can often find their books in bookstores, libraries, schools, and universities. They are not interested in popular fiction, children's books, textbooks, self-help books, genre work, social science, or psychology books.

They are open to receiving fiction and nonfiction submissions via the post or email from authors directly. This includes queries regarding novels, novellas, short story collections, biographies, essays, literary criticisms, literature in translations, memoirs, neglected works that merit rediscovery, and anthologies that would interest the general reader of literary books, as well as anthologies that could be assigned in secondary and university classrooms.

At this time, they are particularly encouraging submissions to their growing young-adult list in nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. These books are aimed at the educational market as well as literary readers.

As of March 1, 2016, due to high volume, they no longer respond to email queries unless they are interested.

Queries must include a cover letter, author background and publication history, as well as a synopsis of the proposed work, and a sample chapter. You can simultaneously submit to Persea, but please indicate it in your submission to them. They try to respond to proposals within eight weeks and, if your manuscript is requested, they try to respond to that within twelve weeks, although it sometimes takes them longer.

You should make sure to study their backlist before submitting, to get a better understanding of what they are specifically looking for.

Submissions of poetry queries should be made only via email, and they are generally interested only in poets with a publication history in terms of either literary journals or previously published books or chapbooks. Submit no more than twelve pages for their consideration. They will only contact poets if they are interested in seeing more of the work.

To learn more about Persea or to submit, visit their submission guidelines here.

The Quarto Publishing Group

The Quarto Publishing Group which is an international publishing house known for its illustrated books. They publish most of their work through a number of niche imprints each with their own focus. All of their US imprints are distributed by Hachette.

Their imprints are all nonfiction. They publish a lot of cookbooks and gift books. They also have imprints covering almost any nonfiction topic you can think of from children's nonfiction to parenting to vehicles to architecture.

This is what their website has to say about all their imprints:

Each of our imprints has its own editorial focus and fits into one of the categories below. To ensure that your book proposal winds up in the right hands, please take a moment to review each category to determine where your book best fits. Submitting to the category will send your idea to multiple imprints. If your book idea fits into our focus areas we will contact you for more details. Please bear in mind that we receive a large number of unsolicited manuscripts, so our response time may vary and we ask for your patience.

Their submission guidelines are very specific so please review them carefully before submitting. You can read the full guidelines here.

Once you have carefully reviewed their guidelines you should start composing (or editing) your book proposal.

Reviewing the catalog of the imprint you are planning to submit to is always a good idea.

Quirk Books

This Philadelphia based press publishes just 25 books a year in a whole range of genres, from children's books to nonfiction to science fiction. Unlike most publishers that tackle a large range of topics, Quirk books has a clear marketing plan and to a certain degree their books have a cohesive feel, because they all are quirky.

They have published a wide variety of best sellers and they have excellent distribution. Some of their bestsellers include *The Last Policeman, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children,* and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies.* You probably recognize more of the books they have published, you might even own a few.

Their covers are excellent. Their website is well organized. Even better, from a potential submitters perspective, their submission guidelines are clear. They also make it very obvious which editor you should submit to, based on your topic. For example below is one of the editor's profiles.

Blair Thornburgh (Editor) is interested in high-concept fiction and non-fiction for teens and adults with a humorous, geeky, and/or feminist bent. In YA fiction, she's seeking manuscripts with a strong, preferably comedic voice and a fresh premise (no dystopias, please). In adult fiction, she's looking for next-gen chick lit, genre fiction that's light and accessible to mainstream readers, and

anything with a playful high concept. In non-fiction, she's looking for projects involving women and feminism, geeky stuff and pop culture, or anything that will appeal to quote-unquote millennials. She is actively seeking authors from diverse backgrounds. Definitely query her if you have:

1. High-concept YA with a strong voice—think geeky Meg Cabot
2. Fiction (adult or YA) that incorporates lots of voices or stylistic devices (à la *Dear Committee Members* or *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*)
3. A love story with an unusual narrative form, like Rainbow Rowell's *Attachments*, Jennifer E. Smith's *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight*, or Daniel Handler's *Why We Broke Up*
4. Genre fiction that's self-aware, like *Galaxy Quest* or *Cabin in the Woods* in book form
5. Any novel that plays with narrative form, especially involving the internet—a "TTYL" for the next generation

All of the editors have their email address posted at the bottom of their profile. They used to be quick in terms of response times. However, for the last year or so they appear to have only responded to queries they are interested in learning more about. So if you do not hear from them, keep that in mind. Only query one editor at a

time. They ask that you do not follow up if you do not hear from them.

To learn more, visit their submission guidelines here.

Ripple Grove Press

Ripple Grove Press is a newer family-run children's book publisher based out of Portland. They focus on publishing original, beautifully illustrated children's books. Their website is clear and transparent. It lists their distributor and their literary agent for other publishers interested in translating their work.

The website is easy to navigate and focuses on selling books. The books themselves are beautifully illustrated and appealing. The books they publish are aimed at 2-8 year olds.

They have a clear idea of what they are not interested in reading: "Lullaby stories or stories about how much I love you; or my younger brother annoys me; or there's a new baby or puppy in the house; or there's a monster under my bed; or I want to turn my sister into a monster; or you're the star in my heaven. We are not interested in your summer vacation or something sweet you did with your nana."

Reviewing their catalog should give you a good idea of what they are interested in publishing. They only publish between 3-4 books a year, so they are highly selective.

Before submitting I highly encourage you to check out their section of essays. The one on top has particularly helpful advice.

All submissions must be made via email and all manuscripts must be copied and pasted into the body of the email. Attached manuscripts will not be opened. Please review their full submission guidelines carefully. Only illustrators with a story should attach their manuscript as a PDF document.

To learn more or to submit, go to their submission guidelines here.

Skypony

Skypony Publishing is a division of Skyhorse Publishing. Skypony focuses on publishing works for children, they are also open to publishing young-adult work as long as it intersects with other areas of interest for the publisher such as ecology, farm living, wilderness living, recycling, and other *green* topics.

They are currently open to submissions of picture books, books aimed at early readers, young-adult novels with a *green* focus, midgrade novels, and informational books for children and young adults. They also consider books with special needs themes such as food allergies and ADHD. They prefer to publish single titles but are open to considering series proposals.

Some of the titles of their most recent books include: *Alpha Goddess*, *The Little Raindrop*, *Jonah and The Whale*, and *Dixie Wants an Allergy*. They have also published a number of craft how-to books and one sequel. Clearly, they publish a larger range of books than just eco-friendly or educational books. *Alpha Goddess*, for example, is a science-fiction influenced young-adult book.

Skypony only considers work submitted electronically via email. They expect all work to be attached either as a Word file or, if it contains images, as a jpg file.

When you submit work, include a query letter that contains relevant information about yourself, including your publishing history, any institutional associations you have, your occupation, and a website link if relevant. If the book is informational, you should include your qualifications.

They do not specifically request a pitch or plot synopsis, but your query letter will look more professional with them. Also, they do not mention anything about simultaneous submissions, so you should be fine submitting your work elsewhere at the same time as long as you notify them if your work is accepted elsewhere. To learn more or submit work, please visit their website here.

Sleeping Bear Press

Sleeping Bear Press is a well regarded publisher of board books, picture books, middle grade readers, and young adult fiction. They offer advances to some authors. They have good regional distribution in the Midwest and ok distribution in North America. Their books have won a wide variety of awards, all of them are listed here.

Their website is easy to use and focused on selling books. They do offer teachers' guides for many of their books, which is a good sign. Also you can read all of the editorial reviews of their books here, which is a wonderful and can give you a good idea about the details of what they publish. Their catalog is also very helpful. It is organized by age group and you can see it here.

I thought it was worth noting that while they published a lot of board books, picture books and middle grade readers, their young adult fiction selection was rather sparse, having less than a dozen books in it (not counting blank diaries). Perhaps it is a newer area of publication for them, or just not their focus.

They are open to submissions on a rolling basis, which means they can open and close to submissions without notice. Please check back at their website regularly if they are closed, they appear to be open the majority of the time.

All submissions must be made through post or email. They only contact submitters if they are interested in the book they submitted. They do not respond to queries regarding manuscripts. They also don't give estimated response times, but a good rule of thumb is if you have not heard from a publisher in six months (and they don't post response times), assume they are not interested. Learn more here.

Sterling Publishing

Sterling Publishing is owned by Barnes and Noble. They put it for sale a couple of years ago, but then after a period of time pulled it from the market. During this whole period Sterling has continued to publish books. They also have a large crafting imprint named Lark. Sterling has been publishing books for over 60 years.

Their website is currently under construction and focuses on authors, not on selling books, but given the fact that they have very good distribution that might not be as much of a priority for them.

The books they publish for adults cover current events, diet and health, parenting, pop culture, reference, history, art, artists, and music. They have a number of imprints with specific focuses on topics such as cooking. They do not publish fiction for adults

They also publish books for children and toddlers. This includes works of fiction and non-fiction.

Sterling only accepts submissions via the post. They try to respond to all submissions they receive. For children's books they expect full manuscripts. For adult books they want a proposal and a first sample chapter.

When you submit, be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. They will not return any materials

submitted unless you specifically request that materials be returned and include, along with your submission, a self-addressed stamped envelope. Under no circumstance should you submit originals or the only copy. They cannot guarantee that they will return unsolicited material.

All submissions should be clearly addressed to the correct editor (for example the Parenting Editor).

To learn more visit their submission guidelines here. You have to scroll down to the submission guidelines which download as a PDF.

Tell-Tale Publishing

Tell-Tale Publishing is a small press founded in 2009. They seem to focus primarily on eBooks but also they have print options (largely print on demand). They publish six imprints which include Dahlia (Romance, and various romance subgenres), Stargazer (fantasy, steampunk), Nightshade (horror), Casablanca (mystery), Thistle (middle school, YA, New Adult), and Deja Vu (reprints for all genres).

All of the genres have separate, detailed submission guidelines, so review those before submitting. Many also spell out their expectations in terms of genre and subgenre.

They have an active Facebook page with a fair number of followers and their website seems geared towards readers. That said, I find their website to be poorly designed and the font colors they have chosen to use on particular pages (about us for example), beyond confusing. I don't find the website or the writing on it to be professional or appealing.

Their covers are mixed, leaning towards not very good, but they are mostly in genres I don't read, like romance and horror. So I am not really the covers target audience.

On their website there is evidence that they don't believe in the Oxford comma, and I found that off-putting. Although they say they

believe in them in their style guide, much of their website does not reflect that.

There is not much about them on Absolute Write, particularly recently, but there was mention of an initial contract being unfriendly to authors, but open to negotiation. You can read more here.

They do however have a style guide on their submission page, and submissions are made online through an easy to use form.

To learn more about their submission guidelines, go here.

Tilbury House

Tilbury House is a press based out of Maine that publishes children's and adults nonfiction books. Their focus since the early 90s has been primarily on children's books with a message about the environment, social justice, nature, or cultural diversity. They are often published along with teacher's guides. Most of their books are aimed at children between the ages of seven to twelve. They are not interested in regional children's books.

They have published some very successful children's books, including *Talking Walls*, *Sheila Says We're Weird*, and *Playing War*. Each book has a focused message involving a social issue.

Tilbury House still publishes books aimed at adults, primarily regional nonfiction about Maine or the Northeast. They tend to publish books that you could easily find in local regional museums.

They accept submissions via post (their mailing address is on their website) and via email (but they do not open attachments). When you submit work, make sure to include a query letter, and/or a partial manuscript and an outline. For children's books, they prefer to see a complete manuscript. If you are submitting a complete manuscript, it is probably best to send it in the mail, as they do not open attachments.

Work sent through the mail must be accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope if you want a reply. If you are making simultaneous submissions to other publishers, state that information in your query letter. It takes over a month for them to respond to most queries, so take that into consideration.

It seems like they have a very clear marketing plan for most books, which is a good thing. This is one reason why they are only interested in such a narrow range of publications. Tilbury House was recently bought by new owners, but they seem to be committed to continuing the vision of the previous owners and very little has changed. If you are interested in learning more or submitting work, please visit their website here.

Tradewind Books

Tradewind Books is a small publisher of books for children and young adults located in British Columbia, Canada. They publish beautifully illustrated books, chapter books, books for middle grade readers, and for young adults. They publish primarily fiction but also some poetry. They are not interested in nonfiction. It is important to note that they cannot accept novels by non-Canadian authors unless they are chapter books that require illustrations. They can accept submissions for picture books. If you are not Canadian, only submit books that require illustrations. All other books will not be considered.

The books they publish have been awarded and shortlisted for numerous prestigious awards. The company has been around since 1997.

They have good distribution in Canada and you can see the details about their distribution in other countries (including the US, the UK, Australia and New Zealand) here. I often see their books in my local library. Their books are well designed and appealing as well as diverse. To learn more about the specifics of what they publish, please browse their catalog here.

All submissions must be made through the mail. To learn more, go to their submission guidelines here. They have specific instructions

for each age group and category, so please read and follow their instructions.

Triangle Square

Triangle Square is an imprint of Seven Stories Press that focuses on publishing young-adult novels and children's books. Seven Stories Press is an independent publisher that is well respected and has been around for twenty years. Their books are distributed by Random House. You can read our full review of Seven Stories Press, here.

Triangle Square focuses on publishing high-quality writing that is educational. They recently published Pulitzer Prize winner Jared Diamond's first science book for children, *The Third Chimpanzee for Young People.* But they also published an illustrated book called *The Mummy Makers of Ancient Egypt* by Tamara Bowers, and a novel called *Misdirected* by Ali Berman that focuses on such issues as bullying and homophobia.

Their books all have an educational aspect, even if they are fictional. Triangle Square, like Seven Stories Press, has a focus on education and social justice, their audience is just younger.

It is a good idea to look through the books they have previously published so that you know what they are looking for. You could also buy a book, or check out a few of them from your local library.

Their submission policy is the same as Seven Stories Press. All submissions must be made by mail. Just send a cover letter and two

sample chapters (no more), along with a self-addressed and stamped envelope or postcard so that they can respond.

Their address is Seven Stories Press, 140 Watts Street, New York, NY, 1013.

To get a better feeling for what they publish, please visit their website here.

Turner Books

Turner publishes books in a wide range of categories and formats—fiction and non-fiction. They publish mainly in print but have electronic options as well. They are a major independent publishing house that has a number of imprints.

The following is a list of their imprints from their websites, which may be helpful in determining if they are the right publisher for you.

- Turner
- Wiley: Turner publishes under the Wiley name, with permission, for over 1,000 acquired titles
- Hunter House: Health, Wellness & Sexuality Titles
- Ancestry: Genealogy (acquired the assets of the book division of Ancestry.com)
- Fieldstone Alliance: Business Books for Non-profits (acquired assets of Fieldstone Alliance)
- Basic Health Publications: Titles on Health and Wellness
- Iroquois Press: Fiction and Literature imprint
- Ramsey & Todd: Children's books
- Specific Titles formerly published by Cumberland House Press

They have published a number of well known authors and bestselling books. They have good distribution. Their website is easy to navigate and well designed.

All submissions must be made through email. They are open to agented or unagented submissions. They will contact you if they are interested, otherwise do not expect to hear from them. They are rather blunt about that. Unfortunately they do not have any information around average turn around time, but they allow simultaneous submissions.

To learn more about them I really encourage you to browse their catalog. To learn their submissions email address (and not much else) visit their website here.

Versify

Versify, a new imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, is accepting submissions via email. Versify was started by the Newberry Award winning author Kwame Alexander, who you can learn more about here. The goal of Versify is to publish risky, unconventional books for children. They are looking for novels, non-fiction, picture books, and graphic novels. They also are probably the only imprint of Houghton Mifflin that has a Tumblr.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has no other imprints currently open to unsolicited submissions.

It is important to stress that they publish a very specific kind of writing. Kwame Alexander's book The Crossover, a book of prose and poetry, which he struggled to get published, was the inspiration for the imprint. It is worth reading before submitting. Versify itself has yet to publish a book. It is the first publisher that we have reviewed that hasn't had a publication history, but because it is an imprint of Houghton Mifflin, one of the big five, we do think it is well worth reviewing. Their first book will be published in 2019.

This is the official press release on Versify.

They do not respond to submissions unless they are interested in publishing your work. So if you have not heard from them in 12 weeks, it is safe to assume rejection.

To learn more, go to their submission guidelines here.

Watershed Books

Watershed is an imprint of Pelican Book Group. Watershed publishes Christian fiction aimed at readers between the ages of 14 and 19. They want the books to appeal to older readers as well.

It is a good idea to browse their catalog to see what they have previously published. This will also give you a good idea of the quality of covers which appears to vary widely. I did find some errors on the website, but all appeared to be minor. I liked that the website focused on readers not writers.

The books they consider publishing belong in the following categories

- Action-adventure
- Mystery, (amateur sleuth or other)
- Romance
- Sci-fi / Fantasy / Supernatural
- Suspense, crime drama, police procedural
- Teen angst / coming-of-age
- Westerns

The focus the narrative must be conflict that is experienced by the main characters. There can be more than one protagonist. The over-arching story does not have to be spiritual at the start but through the progression of the plot, faith becomes a requirement.

They ask that the manuscripts submitted to them not be "overly preachy". Supernatural themes are allowed but must be limited to Christian Elements. The Example they give is "Angels would be acceptable; a talking witch's familiar would not."

They really want the stories to be character driven. Their detailed submission guidelines can be read here. You can submit to them here, but only after reviewing the submission guidelines.

They do not consider work that is previously published, self or otherwise. They only accept electronic submissions.

Woodbine House

Woodbine House specializes in books about developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism. The books they publish are written for and about children with certain disabilities. Their titles cover AD/HD, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, early intervention, inclusion, special education, communication skills, and more. They were founded in 1985.

They particularly focus on books that are written expressly for parents or other family members of children with disabilities. They also consider books written for individuals with disabilities, professionals, or a general audience. They have separate guidelines for children's book submissions. They are also interested in young adult books with the intended audience being teens with disabilities.

They stress that while previous publishing experience is not required or expected and most of the submissions they receive are unaganted, it is essential that the author has hands-on experience with one or more children with disabilities and that the book they write reflects that experience.

This is a niche publisher with a very clear focus. They are not looking for a general audience and they do not have good distribution but they seem to be connected to their readership. They largely sell books libraries, support organizations, schools, hospitals, and other nonprofits.

To learn more, go to their submission guidelines which are embedded in the FAQ section of their website. All submissions must be mailed in to be considered.

Workman

Workman Publishing is a large independent publishing company that now includes a number of separate imprints (most started out as their own companies and were purchased by Workman). The imprints include large established companies like Algonquin Books (which is no longer open to un-aganted submissions). The original Workman imprint is open to un-agented submissions. They focus on publishing exclusively nonfiction books for children and adults, as well as calendars. They do not accept unsolicited picture book submissions.

To get a good idea about what the Workman imprint publishes, visit their page here. They have good distribution and I recognized a number of their covers from the display case at my local bookstore which is always a good sign. Some of the famous books they have published in the past (they have been around a long time) include The "What to Expect" series (best known for the Book *What to Expect When you are Expecting*).

They prefer to receive all submissions via email. Any hard copy submissions must be of copies. They do not want original work and will not return original work. Please specify if your book is for the Children's department.

They have clear submission guidelines and the entire proposal should not be longer than 30 pages, this includes the first chapter. Read their submission guidelines carefully, because it is important to follow them.

They do respond to all submissions, but it generally takes them around 5 months. Please do not query them before that.

To learn more go to their submission page here. The submission guidelines for the Workman Imprint are up first on the page.

Literary Journals and Magazines aimed at Younger Readers

Most children's book authors and young adult authors struggle with creating a trove of published works – an asset when trying to find an agent or publisher for their work. The following lists publishers that are all looking for work aimed at children and teens.

So, not only can you create a history of publication, you can do so in the area you specialize in. Many famous writers got their start in journals like Cicada and Cricket.

The list is in no particular order. Keep in mind that not all of these publishers may be currently open to submissions. None of these publishers charge reading fees. We never review a publisher that does.

Sparkle
A Christian magazine aimed at girls in 1st through 3rd grade. They pay varying amounts depending on the genre. You can read their submission guidelines here.

Ember
A literary journal that publishes creative nonfiction, fiction, and poetry aimed at children and teens. They publish writing by adults as well as children. Learn more here.

The Caterpillar

This relatively new but greatly respected literary journal for kids between the ages of 8 and 11 accepts submissions of poetry and fiction. Learn more here.

BALLOONS Literary Journal

An online journal that publishes poetry, fiction and art that is primarily aimed at young readers aged around 10 to 16. Read our full review here.

Cricket Media's Literary Journals

Their flagship publication, Cricket – billed as "The New Yorker for Kids" – publishes poetry and fiction aimed at 9 to14 year olds. Read our full review here. They also have three other magazines called Babybug (for children 6 months to 3 years), Ladybug (3 to 6 years), and Spider (6 to 9 years). You can see their submission guidelines here.

Cricket Media's Nonfiction Magazines

Cricket media publishes a wide variety of nonfiction magazines for children as well. This includes Click (science and discovery for ages 3 to 7), Ask (science and discovery for ages 7 to 10), Muse (science and discovery for ages 10 and up), Cobblestone (American history for ages 9 to 14), Dig (world history and archaeology for ages 9 to 14), and Faces (world cultures and geography for ages 9 to 14). You can see their submission guidelines here (scroll down). Please note

that some require querying first and not all are open to unsolicited submissions.

Guardian Angel Kids

A paying market that publishes articles, poems, activities, and short stories. Their extensive guidelines are online here. Their magazine is free so it is easy to get a good feel for what they publish.

Tunnel

An e-zine whose primary audience is teen readers. They accept submissions from anyone of any age as long as the intended audience of the writing is young adults. Learn more at their website here.

YARN

This literary journal's name YARN is an acronym for The Young Adult Review Network. They are a respected literary journal that nominates for the Pushcart Prize. They are open to genre work and they publish poetry, fiction, and essays. To learn more, visit their website here.

New Moon Girls

New Moon Girls publishes work by children and young women as well as work by adults. The work they publish covers a variety of genres and includes fiction and nonfiction aimed at girls 8 to 14. You can learn more here.

Boys' Life

The magazine published by the Boy Scouts is only interested in unsolicited submissions that are nonfiction, but they do pay very well (generally $1/word). The intended readers are boys 6 to 17. Their guidelines are detailed and you can download them here.

Highlights' Publications

Highlights publications include Highlights Magazine, Hello, and High Five. All publications are interested in stories, poems, crafts, and recipes, but each has a different audience in mind, in terms of age. The magazines' audiences range starts at 1 and goes to 12. See their guidelines here.

Other Resources

Below are a number of resources that focus on children's book writing. Some are free, but others are not. The children's book publishing industry has a lot of resources and membership organizations geared towards writers and illustrators. These resources and organizations can really help new authors get published and more established authors market their books.

It is also important to look into local resources that may be of help. Often libraries and independent bookstores have groups and workshops for children's and YA writers. There also might be a local chapter of one of the larger writer organizations, such as SCBWI and CANSCAIP.

Local or regional conferences that might really benefit you also exist (many hosted by local chapters of the organizations mentioned above). Additionally, some universities hold excellent children's book conferences. Ask around at your library, bookstore, and local schools.

The Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators & Performers (CANSCAIP)

CANSCAIP is only open to Canadians. So if you are not a Canadian you can skim past this section. If you are Canadian, this is a wonderful organization and well worth being a part of. CANSCAIP is a member-supported not-for-profit organization for Canadian children's authors, illustrators, and performers. In order to be a member you must be traditionally published, but without a publication history you can be a friend of CANSCAIP, which offers many of the same benefits.

CANSCAIP member fees are 85 dollars a year, and friends' fees are 45 dollars a year. CANSCAIP has a monthly newsletter that is very informative, mentorship opportunities, regular meetings, and various educational and networking opportunities. They also host a yearly conference in Toronto that is excellent.

Learn more here.

Children's Book Council

This organization's membership is only open to publishers, not writers, but they publish a lot of free information that is pertinent to children's book writers and illustrators. Time spent on their site often pays off.

Learn more here.

Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market 2019: The Most Trusted Guide to Getting Published

This yearly guide is in its 30th edition and it just switched editors. The reviews regarding it are not yet out and there were a number of valid criticisms leveled at the last edition, but I don't know if they are pertinent to the 30th edition.. This book focuses on listing markets that are open to agented and un-agented submissions.

You can read more about it here.

The Highlights Foundation

Best known for publishing Highlights magazine, the foundation focuses on hosting workshops for authors. Their workshops are helpful and valuable, and scholarships are available. However, it still might not be possible or practical to attend such an event, in which case you can access helpful information published on their blog. To visit their website as a whole go here.

The Horn Book Magazine

The Horn Book Magazine was first published in 1924. Highly regarded, it is a bimonthly periodical about literature for children and young adults. The articles they publish focus on issues and

trends in children's literature, as well as essays by artists and authors, and reviews of new books and paperback reprints for children and young adults. Lots of valuable information can be learned by reading The Horn Book. Some bookstores carry it, but it is much cheaper to subscribe to the publication. Learn more here.

Kirkus Review

Kirkus Review publishes a magazine that reviews books pre-release via their digital and print editions. They review both adult and children's books (including YA). They also do other things, including charging authors for reviews – a practice I have mixed feelings about. But the reviews they publish are thorough and teach you a lot about what is appealing about a book, and about how publishing currently works. They have sensitivity readers/reviewers whenever pertinent. Learn more here.

Publishers Weekly

Publishers Weekly publishes a lot of relevant publishing industry news and you can get a good feel for what kind of books publishers are currently interested in by following their website or by subscribing. They have a whole section of the website focusing on children's literature, but they also have news relevant to YA publishing there. Learn more here.

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)

SCBWI is a non-profit organization that is based in the United States, but it is global and open to international members. They provide education and support for children's book writers and illustrators as well as educators, librarians, and performers. You do not have to have any publication history in order to be a member.

SCBWI charges members 95 dollars for their first year, and 80 dollars per year for every year after that. They do offer a significant student discount. SCBWI is a large organization with 82 regional chapters (to include international); they host national and regional events and have lots of networking and educational opportunities. They also have an informative and respected forum, and they offer a number of awards and grants. Learn more here.

Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA)

I went back and forth on including this resource as it is much more specific than the others. VCFA is far from the only university to offer an MFA in writing for Children and Young Adults but it is by far the most prestigious. It was also the first of its kind. The writers that teach there are very well known and established. Many students that studied there have gone on to have successful careers. The low-

residency MFA program functions this way: a student works with one advisor long distance for the semester (there are four and thus, four advisors) and participates in two, ten-day residencies each year in Vermont. You can learn more here.

Glossary of Terms

Advance: An advance is a signing bonus that is paid to the author before the book is published. It is paid against future royalty earnings. So, for every dollar you receive in an advance, you have to earn a dollar from book sales before you receive any additional royalty payments. Most independent publishers do not offer advances.

Anthology: A published collection of poems or other pieces writing, usually on a theme.

The Big Five: Previously known as "The Big Six," this term refers to: Penguin Random House, Macmillan, HarperCollins, Hachette and Simon & Schuster—the five largest publishers in North America. All of these publishers have multiple imprints. All of these publishers and most of their imprints require agents.

First Publication Rights: This term is most commonly used in the context of literary journals and magazines. Most publications will not publish work that has previously appeared in a different literary journal, print or online. Because of this most publishers require First Rights. These can also be called First North American Serial Rights or First Serial Rights. No matter what they are called, it usually means that you are giving a publication exclusive rights to publish

your poem first. After they publish the work the rights revert to you, sometimes right away, sometimes after six months. Many publishers of poetry and short story manuscripts want your work to have been previously published in literary journals.

Genre: A category of artistic composition, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter. Genre can refer to poetry, prose or non-fiction in terms of form. Or it can be a subject matter classification referring to science fiction, mysteries, or various other established types of stories. If a literary journal or publisher says they are not interested in genre work they are using it as a subject matter classification.

Imprints: An imprint of a publisher is a trade name under which a work is published. Many larger publishers use imprints in order to market specific books. For example, science fiction books and mystery books can be published by the same publisher, but under different imprints of that publishing house.

Independent Publishers: A publisher that is not an imprint of The Big Five or a large media corporation. Independent Publishers can be small startups, or large established presses like Chronicle Books. Most do not require agents in order to submit.

Literary Agent: A literary agent is someone who represents writers and their written works to publishers and assists in the sale and deal negotiation of the same. Many publishers require authors to submit their work through a literary agent.

Literary Journal: A magazine that publishes primarily poetry, fiction, and/or creative nonfiction. Also, commonly referred to as journals or reviews.

Manuscript: An unpublished book length work of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry.

Reader: Used mostly in the context of larger journals and contests, publishers generally have volunteer readers; individuals who read a large chunk of the work submitted and who decide what part of that work they are going to pass on to the editors.

Reprints: Work that has been previously published elsewhere. This includes self-published work. Some publishers are particularly interested in publishing reprints as long as all the rights belong to the author. The majority of publishers only consider reprints of work that have been previously traditionally published.

Royalties: Royalties at their most basic refer to the amount of money an author earns off each copy of their book that is sold.

SASE (Self Addressed and Stamped Envelope): If you submit to a publisher, a contest, or a literary journal via the mail, then most publishers require that you include a SASE (Self Addressed and Stamped Envelope). This is so they can respond to your work with a rejection or acceptance letter.

Self-Publishing: When you publish your own work either directly, or on a platform like the Kindle, or when you use a vanity press.

Sensitivity Readers: Sensitivity readers are individuals who review advance manuscripts of upcoming books, checking for issues of representation, bias, insensitive language and cultural inaccuracies. They make suggestions for possible changes to authors. A sensitivity reader reviews a manuscript for internalized bias and negatively charged language.

Many review companies such as Kirkus employ sensitivity readers, but authors now often pay readers to review the content of their books before they submit them. Sensitivity readers are important for chapter books and YA books, particularly if you are interacting with charged issues that you yourself to not face. For example, if an author without a learning disability wrote a book about having one, a sensitivity reader would be very helpful to promote accurate representation.

Solicited Submissions: Submissions from authors that the publishers directly request. Most literary journals publish a mix of solicited and unsolicited submissions. Editors can solicit the work of friends, or of famous or emerging writers.

Submission Manager: An online program that handles submissions electronically. The most common one is Submittable. Both literary journals and manuscript publishers use submission managers.

Traditional Publisher: A publisher who never charges you any fees, and who pays the author for their rights.

Unsolicited Submissions: The bulk of submissions to most journals and publishers are unsolicited. They are the submissions sent through submission managers, post, or emails to publishers and literary journals. If a manuscript publisher says they do not accept unsolicited submissions, then you cannot submit to them unless someone at the publishing house has explicitly asked to see your work, or you have an agent who can submit your work for you.

Vanity Publisher/ Press: Also known as assisted publishing. Any publisher that charges you in order to publish your work is a vanity publisher.

Author Bio

Emily Harstone is the pen name of an author whose work has been published internationally by a number of respected journals. She is a professional submissions adviser. You can follow her on Facebook here: https://www.facebook.com/emilyharstone/