

# CHILDREN'S BOOKS

## RESOURCES ON WRITING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

'Writing for children means thinking about your own past, while staying in touch with young people now.'

*Michael Rosen*

Louise Harnby | Proofreader

# WRITING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

A member of Louise's Writing Library asked if I'd created a resource hub on writing books for children. I hadn't, so I did!

Some of the articles and books I've listed were published prior to the digital transformations that have taken place in the mainstream- and self-publishing industries, so the technical guidance may be a little out of date. However, the underlying principles behind the craft of writing are just as relevant today as they were a decade ago, which merits their inclusion.

If I've missed out something that you think is core reading for children's book writers, let me know and I'll add it.

*Louise*



‘Writing a good children’s book is hard. Selling one to a publisher is even harder. Getting it bought, and read – by librarians, booksellers, and most of all, kids – is the hardest of all.’

**Emma Walton Hamilton**

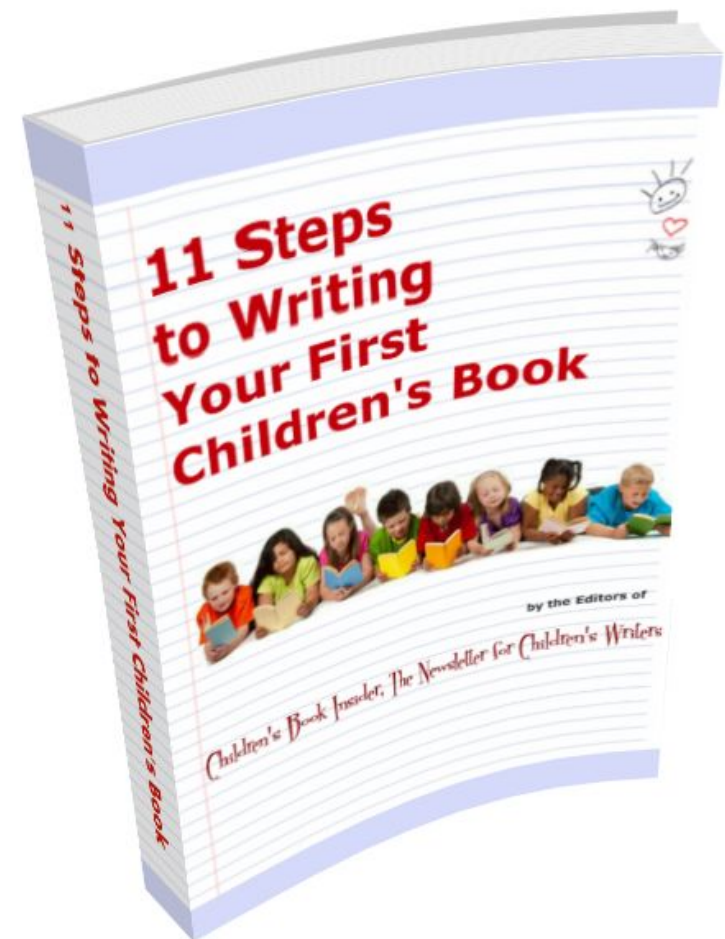
## TOP PICKS

**Write for Kids** by **Children’s Book Insider**. Run by Jon Bard and Laura Backes, the site is chock full of useful guidance – from agent submission, working with editors, and apps, ebooks and tools to different ways of publishing, genres and writing craft.

Plus, there’s a ton of insider guidance (blog posts and videos) from published children’s authors and a free ebook: *11 Steps to Writing Your First Children’s Book*.

**Writing Tips for Kids from Children’s Authors** is a selection of articles from *The Guardian* featuring Pip Jones, Chris D’Lacey, Jacqueline Wilson, Lauren Child, Ross MacKenzie, Mick Inkpen, Rohan Gavin, Anna Calabiano, Angie Sage, Joe Craig, M.G. Leonard, Matt Ralphs, Danyah Miller, and and loads, loads more. Just delicious!

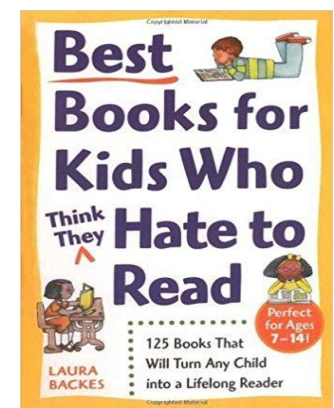
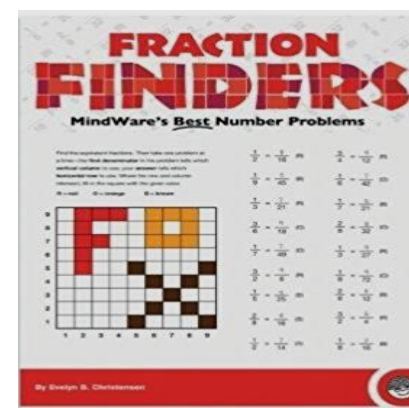
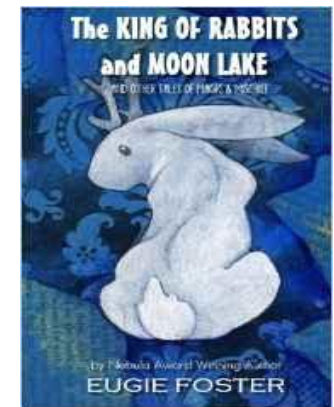
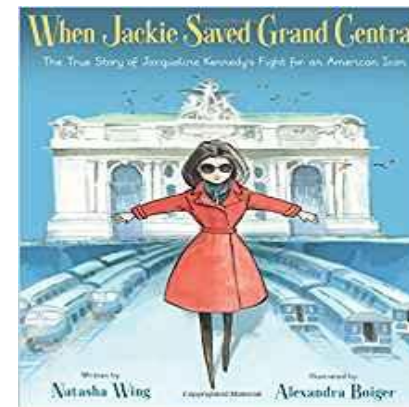
See, also, the *Guardian’s* writing tips from top editors (Articles and Blogs section).



‘When you write for the education market you can enjoy knowing you’ve helped provide materials that can make a positive difference in the learning experiences of many, many children!’ **Evelyn B. Christensen**

## MARKETS AND GENRES

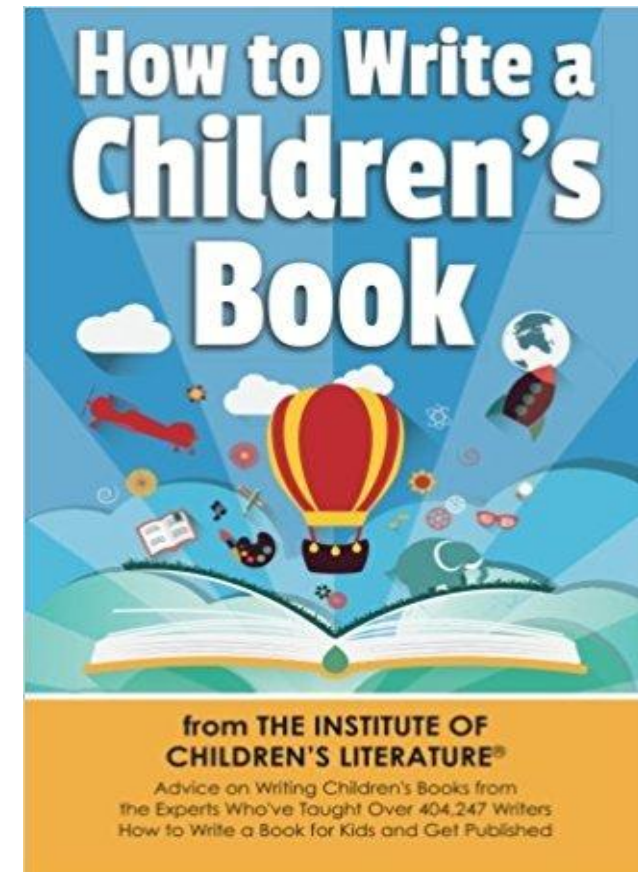
- Children's Books: A Shifting Market (Jim Milliot, Publishers Weekly)
- Doing Your Homework: Tips for Cracking the Educational Market (Christine Venzon, Writing World)
- Educational Markets for Children's Writers (Evelyn B. Christensen)
- Narrative Nonfiction: Making Facts into a Story (Natasha Wing, Write for Kids)
- Tips for Writing for the Education Market (Evelyn B. Christensen)
- Understanding Children's Writing Genres (Laura Backes, Writing World)
- When the Guidelines Say '7-12': The Ages and Stages of Children's Literature (Eugie Foster, Writing World)
- Writing and the Children's Book Market (Chris Kloet, editor at Walker Books, Writers & Artists)
- Writing for the Educational Market (Margo L. Dill, WOW! Women on Writing)



‘Read as many children’s books as you can – picture books, young fiction, novels, teen reads, non-fiction, the classics, the prize-winners – and find out just what is being published ... and what children like to read.’ **Alison Stanley**

## BOOKS

- *Adventures in Writing for Children*. By Aaron Shepard (Shepard Publications, 2016)
- *Book Markets for Children's Writers 2017* (Institute for Writers)
- *Children's Writers' & Artists' Yearbook* (Bloomsbury, annual)
- *How to Write a Children's Book and Get it Published*, 2nd ed. UK edition. By Andrea Shavick (Robinson, 2016)
- *How to Write a Children's Book and Get it Published*, 3rd ed. By Barbara Seuling (Wiley, 2014)
- *How to Write a Children's Book*. Edited by Katie Davis (Institute of Children's Literature, 2015)
- *How to Write for Children and Get Published*. By Louise Jordan (Piatkus, 2010)
- *The Business of Writing for Children*. By Aaron Shepard (Shepard Publications, 2016)
- *Writing Children's Books for Dummies*, 2nd ed. By Lisa Rojany Buccieri and Peter Economy (Wiley, 2012)
- *The Magic Words: Writing Great Books for Children and Young Adults*. By Cheryl Klein (W.W. Norton & Company, 2016)
- *Writing for the Educational Market: Informational Books for Kids*. By Laura Purdie Salas (CreateSpace, 2014)



‘Listening is active. At its most basic level, it’s about focus, paying attention.’ **Simon Sinek**

## PODCASTS

- Podcast: Writing Books for Children with Fiona Ingram (The Creative Penn)
- SCBWI Podcasts (Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators)
- Writing for Children (with Katie Davis, The Institute of Children’s Literature)

## ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCE HUBS

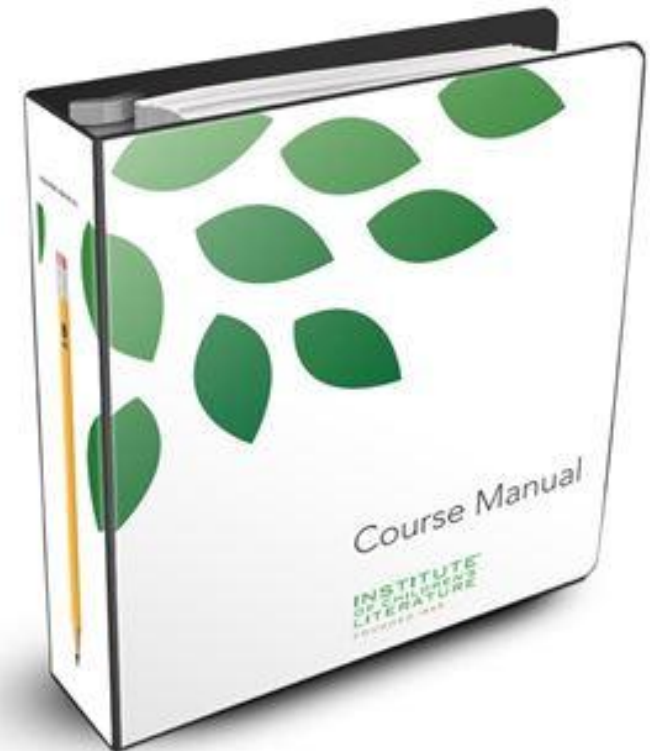
- Aaron Shepard’s Kidwriting Page
- Children’s Book Insider
- National Writing for Children Center
- SCBWI: The Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators
- The Society of Authors: Children’s Writers and Illustrators Group (CWIG)
- The Writers’ Workshop
- Writing for the Education Market



# ‘Write for the generation you find around you.’ (The Writers’ Workshop)

## COURSES

- Beyond the Basics: Writing and Selling Short Stories and Articles (Institute for Children's Literature)
- Children's Writing (ACS Distance Learning)
- How to Write Short Stories for Children (Universal Class)
- Picture Books (The Writers' Workshop)
- Write for Children and Get Published – A correspondence home-study course (Writers' Advice Centre)
- Write Storybooks for Children (WriteStorybooksForChildren.com)
- Writers' workshops – Writing for Children Course (Writers' Advice Centre)
- Writing and Selling Children's Books (Institute for Children's Literature)
- Writing for Children (City University of London – Short Courses)
- Writing for Children (The London School of Journalism)
- Writing for Children (The Writers' Workshop)
- Writing for Children and Teens (Institute for Children's Literature)



‘Make your readers say “Wow,” even if it means you have to have a good cry as you’re writing it.’ **Mary Hertz Scarbrough**

## ARTICLES AND BLOGS

- [5 Essential Tips for Creating a Children's Book](#) (Jo Ann Kairys; The Creative Penn)
- [Child's Play](#) (Michael Rosen; The Guardian)
- [Common Mistakes to Avoid When Writing a Children's Book](#) (Mary Hertz Scarbrough; Quick and Dirty Tips)
- [Dangerous Myths and Terrible Truths: A Quick Intro to Writing Children's Books and Publishing Them](#) (Aaron Shepard)
- [How to Create a Fantastic Picture Book](#) (Emma Blackburn, Bloomsbury Publishing)
- [How to Write a Children's Book](#) (The Writers' Workshop)
- [Secrets of Successful Children's Book Authors](#) (Jaclyn A. Zinn)
- [So You Want to Write Books for Children? \(Part 1\) \(Part 2\)](#) (Mary Hertz Scarbrough; Quick and Dirty Tips)
- [Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators FAQs](#)
- [Story Writing Tips for Kids](#) (Corey Green)
- [The 3 Little P's of Picture Books](#) (Emma Walton Hamilton)
- [The 6 Common Mistakes Made by Aspiring Children's Book Authors](#) (Emma Walton Hamilton)
- [Tips for Writing Children's Books](#) (Nosy Crow)
- [Top Writing Tips for New Children's Authors from Top Editors](#) (The Guardian)
- [Write for Kids](#) – includes free ebook: *11 Steps to Writing Your First Children's Book* (Children's Book Insider)
- [Writing Children's Books for Dummies Cheat Sheet](#) (Lisa Rojany Buccieri and Peter Economy; Wiley)
- [Writing for Children](#) (Writing-World.com)
- [Writing for Children: 5 Tips to Writing a Book Kids Love](#) (Reader's Digest)
- [Writing for Children: Getting Started](#) (Alison Stanley; Writers & Artists)
- [Writing for Children: Tips & Advice](#) (Writers & Artists)
- [Writing Tips for Kids from Children's Authors](#) (The Guardian)
- [Writing Your Story: Tips on How to Write Children's Stories](#) (Aaron Shepard)



# ABOUT LOUISE

Louise Harnby is a professional fiction proofreader and copyeditor. She specializes in helping independent authors prepare their novels for market. Louise worked in-house for two international publishers for 13 years before setting up her editorial business. She has also self-published several books on the business of editing and proofreading. You can find out more about her at [www.louiseharnbyproofreader.com](http://www.louiseharnbyproofreader.com)

