

SURE PATHS – QUICK TIPS

Read-DEVOUR BOOKS

- Read. Read. Read.
- Note acknowledgements in middle grade books/YA books.
- Look up illustrator/author websites of the books you like.
- Search for the editors of books you like. Read more than one book they have edited.
- Keep a record of the books that you study -- include publisher information, your take on the book, and author/illustrator information.

CHECK OUT CHILDREN’S BOOK REVIEWS

- Who wrote the review? An author? An editor? A librarian?
- Keep a record of books of interest and read those books.

LURK AT BOOKSTORES AND LIBRARIES

- Get to know local librarians and bookstore owners.
- Check out the new displays at the local bookstore.
- Go to book signings and readings.

STUDY MARKET GUIDES

- Read the articles.
- Keep a log of markets of interest.
- Consider guides as overview documents.

REVIEW PUBLISHING CATALOGUES

- How many first time author/illustrators?
- How many middle grade novel, PBs, and YA.
- What is the focus? Literary? Educational? Niche?
- What is the “personality” of this house?
- Keep a record of books of interest for future research.

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE - THE INTERNET

- Publisher websites
- Professional organizations for writers and illustrators
- Professional journals/reviews
- Contests and school
- Blogs, boards, groups and listservs
- Agent websites, blogs, tweets, etc.

When in doubt google it. The truth is out there.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX Ways to enter the children's market.

Magazines
E-books and apps
Educational Market
Packagers

NETWORKING

Boards
Conferences
Classes
Critique Groups
Libraries and bookstores
Online groups (<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~mjoseph/childlit/about.html>)

MORE TIPS

Want a great way to get an insider look at publishing industry? Volunteer for a local writing organization.

Want to get noticed? Develop a web presence – web site, blog, email groups, MySpace, and boards. ~ Greg Fishbone, gffishbone.com

For writing tips and inspiration, check out my blog, SEIZE THE DAY, at mollyblaisdell.blogspot.com.

LIST FIVE ACHIEVIABLE SHORT TERM GOALS:

LIST YOUR LONG TERM GOAL:

ONLINE CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING MARKET GUIDE

Sites to see.

booksense.com – A family of independent bookseller websites.

cbcbooks.org – The Children's Book Council website has a directory listing many publishers, illustrators, internship opportunities, and more.

cynthialeitichsmith.com – More great links and another great blog.

highlightsfoundation.org – great articles from their yearly children's writer workshop, always includes great info for illustrators.

institutechildrenslit.com – Great articles for writers.

kidmagwriters.com – In depth look at the magazine market. Plenty of marketing info.

publishersweekly.com/– children's industry news.

scbwi.org – membership fee, offers several marketing publications. The SCBWI Bulletin and the member boards have marketing calls.

verlakay.com – Author Verla Kay offers tons of fantastic advice, many editor/agent interviews and is home to the blue boarders.

writersmarket.com/index – Subscribe online to the market guide. Fee-based, instant up-to-date, at-a-glance marketing info.

underdown.org – Harold Underdown provides a monthly update of who's moving where in the children's industry.

Questions? Want to connect with real live industry professionals?

Try Twitter. For the low down on how to join these live interactive chats: inkygirl.com/twitter-chats-for-writers/.

Try Boards. The three following boards cover just about everything in children's publishing.

verlakay.com/boards/index.php?board=4.0 at www.verlakay.com – Great place to ask questions about illustration.

write4kids.com/cgi-bin/discus/discus.cgi – The illustrator's zone – another great site for questions.

scbwi.org – Society for Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, for members only, fee based, good networking organization.

Try Blogs. Great info but big time killer. Dole out in daily doses.

kidlitosphere.org/bloggers/ -- the Society in Children’s and Young Adult Literature– includes a comprehensive list of writer, reviewer and publisher blogs.

One of my faves: Anastasia Suen’s **BLOG CENTRAL** -- This is a great listing of blogs subdivided by agents, editors, and author/illustrators. asuen.com/blog.central and also see: create-relate.blogspot.com – Writer Anastasia Suen’s blog.

Review the Reviews

KIRKUS – kirkusreviews.com/kirkusreviews/index

SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL – slj.com

HORN BOOK – hornbook.com – Many articles by well known editors.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY – Bi-yearly issues devoted to children’s books – pw.com

ALAN ONLINE – The official site of the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents. alan-ya.org

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS CENTRAL – find book reviews, author interviews & bios, press releases, industry news and much more on both children’s and YA books. yabookscentral.com

Market Pipelines

Children’s Book Insider – great articles, useful marketing info, see website for pricing: write4kids.com

Children’s Writer Newsletter – great magazine for writers, lots of marketing information. Offers a number of great books on marketing. childrenswriter.com

A Quick Guide to Agents

agentquery.com – another great agent directory.

caseylmccormick.blogspot.com – Great site for agent interviews.

guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog/ – informative blog with agent news.

missnarksfirstvictim.blogspot.com/ – excellent blog with sound agent advice.

querytracker.net – great agent directory.

Stay Safe

anotherrealm.com/prededitors/sfwa.org/for-authors/writer-beware/