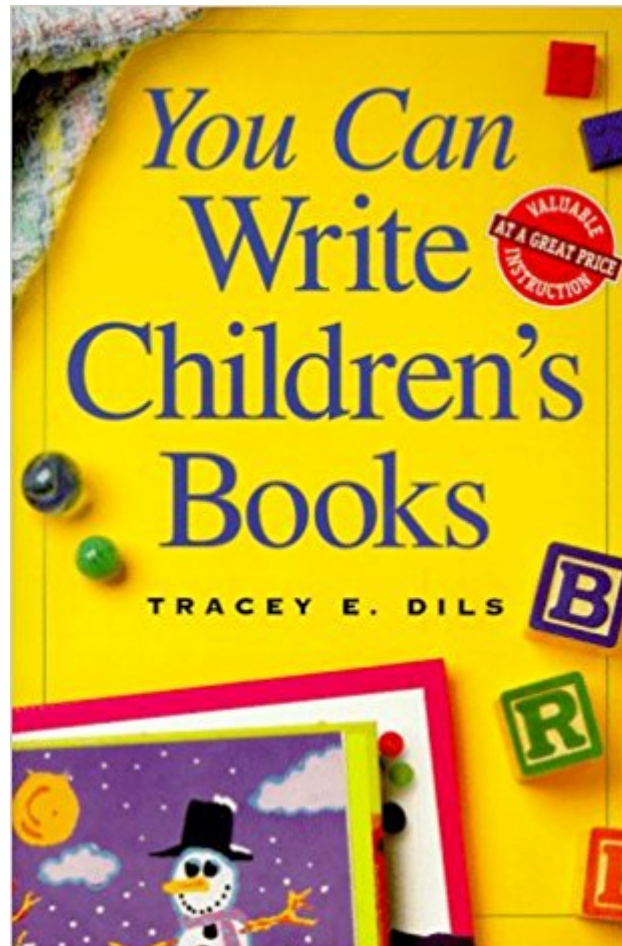




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You Can Write Children's Books



Synopsis

First-time children's writers will learn to follow the important writing and submission guidelines they need to get their books in print. Ways to target the right age group, today's hot trends and the basic conventions of style are all included.'

Book Information

Paperback: 120 pages

Publisher: Writer's Digest Books; 1st edition (February 15, 1998)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,561,324 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Children's Literature](#) #1400 in [Books > Textbooks > Reference > Writing Skills](#) #1459 in [Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Reference](#)

Customer Reviews

As a longtime author and creative writing teacher, my shelves are filled with texts about crafting poetry, fiction, and nonfiction for adults. After writing a children's picture book manuscript recently, a new genre for my pen, I was searching for a text specifically geared for picture book authors and others who write for youth. Tracey E. Dils' book more than met my expectations. Her tone is straightforward and inviting, and the chapters are organized exceptionally well. I found her chapters on picture book writing (chapter two), nonfiction (chapter five), preparing a manuscript and finding an agent and/or publisher (chapters 6-8) particularly of use and jam-packed with helpful advice. Even better, there are two appendixes which include helpful charts on children's developmental stages as well as lists of numerous writing organizations, resources on the internet, and children's writers newsletters and periodicals. There are also great chapters on beginning and chapter books as well as middle grade and YA writing that are well worth an author's time. The chapters end with "Tips from the Top" and "Inspiration Exercises" that I can't wait to take for a spin. I would also consider using this as a text for one of my creative writing classes sometime, as she walks writers through foundational considerations of everything from how to get started and edit to how to craft

query and cover letters when pitching a manuscript to agents and publishers. While this is a slender volume at 170 pages, it carries a great worth in knowledge that even a novice writer in children's writing will find instructive and helpful. I know that I plan on keeping it close at hand as I edit and then submit my manuscript. I consider this book a wise investment in my writing, and I'd heartily recommend it to other writers.

Several years ago I bought the workbook by the same author and title, *You can Write Children's Books*. That publication helped write a chapter book that will also be a series. At the moment, I'm trying to write a picture book and wanted a guide. So, I decided to read the book *You can Write Children's Book* and I have not been disappointed; the text has given me ideas how to complete my project and improve the existing manuscript. In addition, the author presents examples query letters; that are hard to find. More importantly, the text improved my confidence in the project that I am working on. Some of the information in book is dated, like writing letters to get writing guidelines (you can get that online these days), but the author's advice will help you write children books, if that is your passion.

Gives you all the insights to get your book published.

In preparing our new book, *NOT ALL HEROES ARE ON TV*, I read many books. This book was one of the first. I found every page necessary learning. As an elementary teacher for 27 years and a principal for 10 years, I had a rather good idea where to go with a book. But Tracey Dils' book really woke up my ideas. Her worksheets within chapters make the "how to" very easy. I found the guidance on query letters way beyond my knowledge. Applying that information brought me a positive response.

IT WILL BE HELPFUL WHEN I FINALLY USE IT. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BECOMING A CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR SOON.

Still reading and will be rereading.

This is an excellent book for beginners. It gives an accurate overview of the process of writing children books. The language is very conversational and not too academic which makes it easier to grasp her concepts. In the appendix she lists some great resources that would be beneficial to any

writer--whether beginner or pro.

I was intertested in writing children's books but not sure where to begin. This book contains much useful information laid out in easy to use and understand format. In fact, since I have begun using it, I have completed, not one, but two, of what I consider to be sellable childrens books which are now in the hands of my illustrator. I hope that they will be published as ebooks by spring. If you are interested in knowing how to begin writing a book for children, this book will be very helpful.

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