

Writer's Con 2022- Oklahoma City Handout- Clarissa Willis



Writing Children's Books that Sell

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Writing a book that sells...

- Join SCBWI* the best money you will ever spend.
- Read, read, read children's books
- Beware of false prophets
- Do your market research
- Write, read, write, read, read, read, read.

*Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (<https://www.scbwi.org/>)

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0 - 200 Words	Ages 0 - 3	Board Book
200 - 500 words	Ages 2 - 5	Early Picture Book
500 - 800 words	Ages 3 - 7	Picture Book
600 - 1000 words	Ages 4 - 8	Older Picture Book
3k - 10k words	Ages 5 - 10	Chapter Book

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5 Golden Rules

1. Your Idea must be a solid one.



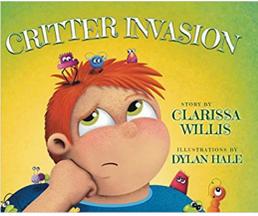
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1. Your Idea and the Nursery Rhyme Crime

- Think about a new take on an old tale- Nursery Rhyme Crime by Priscilla Lamont, The Fourth Little Pig, Little Red
- Write your idea down as a quick synopsis
- Think elevator pitch

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Example

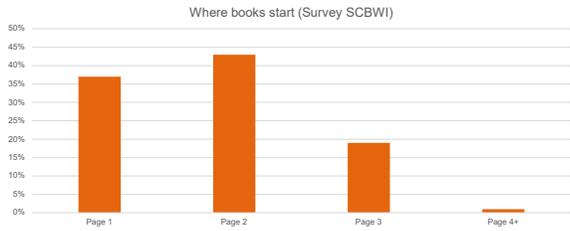


- Corban has nightmares, and the worst one is about creepy, crawly, slimy **CRITTERS** invading his house. He talks to his mom, his teacher, and even his best friend Jax, and their advice only worsens the nightmares. It is only when he learns to use his mind tools' that he can overcome his fears and get rid of the critters once and for all.

CRITTER CREW Crittercrew.net

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2. Start already....



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3. Challenges-

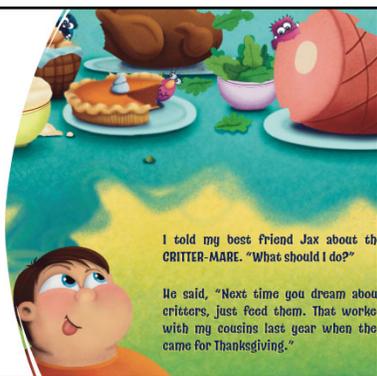


- What not to do-
 - Have a perfect character who quickly solves everything
 - Use too many words children don't understand- Rare words are great!
 - Someone else solves the problem for the character
 - Too many characters
 - No plot or too much plot

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3. Challenges What to Do-

- Be aware of the desktop in the mind
- Look for ways to solve the problem
 - Corban tells his mother
 - Corban tells his teacher
 - Corban tells his friend
 - Corban talks to his grandfather



I told my best friend Jax about the CRITTER-MARE. "What should I do?"

He said, "Next time you dream about critters, just feed them. That worked with my cousins last year when they came for Thanksgiving."

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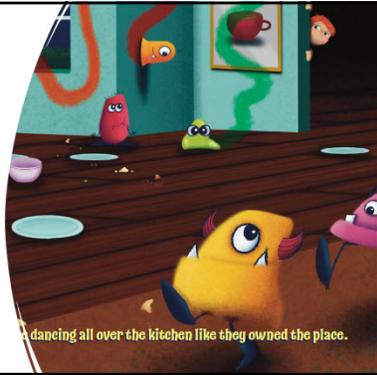
Know what type of story you are going to write

- Own voices
- Non-fiction
- Realistic
- STEM
- Fantasy

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4. Get Support

- Support group
- Friends
- Attend conferences
- Watch webinars
- Avoid the black hole of not writing.



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Linda Apple is an inspirational speaker and the author of *Bow Wow! Book of Winston's Words of Wisdom*. A series of inspirational stories featuring her dog, Winston. According to Linda she never intended to join the world of children's book authors, but watching her grandchildren interact with Winston changed her mind. Winston and Linda have an interactive website for children, parents, teachers and fans of Winston. Check out their website [here](#).



Mary Jo Huff is known for workshops, keynote addresses and staff development. Her extensive experience in early childhood helps her as she connects to the power of story, puppet play, music and movement. She brings a unique and workable approach to telling stories. Mary Jo enjoys speaking for family nights and opening ceremonies. She has been in the world for children's book authors for quite sometime and looks forward to the publication of her newest book *No, no Ebenezer* in 2022. Check out her website [here](#).

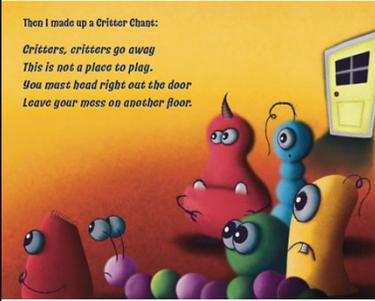
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5.
Revise,
rewrite,
review,
redo

- Revise
- Rewrite
- Review
- Get an editor
- The business of writing for children

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Then I made up a Critter Chant:
*Critters, critters go away
This is not a place to play.
You must head right out the door
Leave your mess on another floor.*



A Poem for Children's Book Authors

Write, revise,
Rewrite and redo
Doing it is good for you!
You can write a children's book
If you know where to look
So, write, write, write every day
Then revise the night away!

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Conclusion

- Writers read, and writers write
- Know your market
- Decide what type of book you want to write
- Set aside time to write
- Listen to the people who live in your head
- Questions?

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