

**Developmental Editing: Tales from a Children's Book Editor**  
*Handout 2: Children's Book Genres*

GENRE	READING LEVEL	PAGE COUNT	WORD COUNT
<b>Board books</b>  <b>Example:</b> <i>Peek-a-Who?</i> by Nina Laden	ages 0–3	10+ pages	very few words
<b>Picture books</b>  <b>Examples:</b> <i>Leo: A Ghost Story</i> by Mac Barnett; <i>On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein</i> by Jennifer Berne	ages 3–6 or 4–8  often intended as read-alouds, so there's some leeway with RL	24–48 pages  <i>standard is 32</i>	500–1,500+ words  <i>750–800 is the classic standard; current standard = 500 words max w/250–300 preferred</i>
<b>Easy readers, books for young readers, early chapter books</b>  <b>Example:</b> Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne	ages 5–8	48–64 pages	1,000–5,000 words
<b>Young middle grade books, chapter books</b>  <b>Examples:</b> <i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i> by Patricia MacLachlan; Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey	ages 7–10	48–80 pages	3,000–20,000 words
<b>Middle grade books</b>  <b>Examples:</b> <i>Flora &amp; Ulysses</i> by Kate DiCamillo; <i>Stella By Starlight</i> by Sharon M. Draper	ages 8–12	80–160 pages	10,000–40,000+ words
<b>Young adult books (YA)</b>  <b>Examples:</b> <i>Bone Gap</i> by Laura Ruby; <i>Tilt</i> by Ellen Hopkins	ages 12+ is standard  14+ for more explicit scenarios (sex, drugs, violence)	up to 300 pages	up to 100,000+ words  <i>standard is 60,000–75,000; trends: much longer, much shorter, nonstandard formats</i>