

## Developmental Editing: Tales from a Children's Book Editor

### Handout 3: Recommended Resources

**Note:** Some of these are kidlit-specific resources; others are just great sources of publishing information. Keep in mind that, while many listed items are geared toward children's writers, each one's content also offers direct benefits to editors.

#### WEBSITES/BLOGS

- **Amazon** <http://www.amazon.com> (indispensable research tool)
- **American Library Association** <http://www.ala.org>
- **Article: "Leveled Reading Systems Explained"**  
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/leveled-reading-systems-explained>
- **The Brown Bookshelf Blog** <http://thebrownbookshelf.com/blog/>
- **Children's Book Council** <http://www.cbcbooks.org/>
- **A Children's Book Editor's Site/The Purple Crayon**  
<http://www.underdown.org/>
- **Children's Writing Markets**  
<http://www.writerswrite.com/childrens/markets.htm>
- **Cynsations** <http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com/>
- **Editorial Anonymous** <http://editorialanonymous.blogspot.com/> (dormant but worth browsing)
- **From the Mixed-Up Files of Middle-Grade Authors**  
<http://www.fromthemixedupfiles.com/>
- **A Fuse #8 Production** <http://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/>
- **Jane Friedman** <http://janefriedman.com/blog/>
- **Literary Rambles** <http://www.literaryrambles.com/>
- **"Plot Whisperer" Martha Alderson's YouTube Channel**  
<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6ADBB3EA8142A6BE> (27 video tutorials on creating a strong plot, from beginning to end)
- **Publishers Weekly Job Zone** <http://www.publishersweekly.com/paper-copy/jobzone/index.html>
- **Nathan Bransford** <http://blog.nathanbransford.com/>
- **Read Roger: The Horn Book Editor's Rants and Raves**  
<http://www.hbook.com/category/blogs/read-roger/>
- **SCBWI: The Blog** <http://scbwi.blogspot.com/>
- **Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast**  
<http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/>
- **Slush Pile Hell** <http://slushpilehell.tumblr.com/> (a grumpy delight)
- **Wee Need Diverse Books** <http://weneeddiversebooks.org/mission-statement/>
- **Write4Kids.com** <http://www.write4kids.com/>

- **Your Kids Library** <http://yourkidslibrary.com/>

## **BOOKS**

- ***The Art and Craft of Writing for Children*** by William Zinsser
- ***Characters, Emotion, and Viewpoint*** by Nancy Kress
- ***The Chicago Manual of Style***, 16th edition
- ***Children's Writer's and Illustrator's Markets*** (updated annually but not necessary for editors to purchase annually)
- ***The Children's Writer's Reference*** by Berth Amoss and Eric Suben
- ***The Children's Writer's Word Book*** by Alihandra Mogilner (excellent for grade-leveled vocabulary)
- ***The Complete Idiot's Guide to Publishing Children's Books*** by Harold Underdown
- ***Creating Characters Kids Will Love*** by Elaine Marie Alphin
- ***Dear Genius: The Letters of Ursula Nordstrom*** (renowned early children's editor)
- ***Developmental Editing: A Handbook for Freelancers, Authors, and Publishers*** by Scott Norton
- ***Picture Writing*** by Anastasia Suen
- ***Plot and Structure*** by James Scott Bell
- ***The Plot Whisperer: Secrets of Story Structure Any Writer Can Master*** by Martha Alderson
- ***The Plot Whisperer Workbook: Step-by-Step Exercises to Help You Create Compelling Stories*** by Martha Alderson
- ***Scholastic Children's Dictionary*** (essential for education market books)
- ***Second Sight: An Editor's Talks on Writing, Revising & Publishing Books for Children and Young Adults*** by Cheryl B. Klein (one of J. K. Rowling's US editors)
- ***Story*** by Robert McKee (this is a screenwriting tome but valuable for anyone interested in learning about story structure)
- ***The Writer's Guide to Crafting Stories for Children*** by Nancy Lamb
- ***Writing Great Books for Young Adults*** by Regina Brooks
- ***Writing Irresistible Kidlit: The Ultimate Guide to Crafting Fiction for Young Adult and Middle Grade Readers*** by Mary Kole
- ***Writing Magic: Creating Stories That Fly*** by Gail Carson Levine
- ***Writing New Adult Fiction*** by Deborah Halverson
- ***Writing Picture Books*** by Ann Whitford Paul
- ***Writing with Pictures*** by Uri Shelevitz

### **MAGAZINES AND NEWSLETTERS (PRINT AND/OR ELECTRONIC)**

- *Babybug* (ages 6 mo–3)
- *Booklist*
- *Children’s Book Insider*
- *Children’s Bookshelf* (email — put out by PW)
- *Children’s Writer* (includes markets)
- *ChopChop* (ages 5–12)
- *Cicada* (ages 15+)
- *Cobblestone* (ages 9–14)
- *Cricket* (ages 9–14)
- *Dig Into History* (ages 9–14)
- *Highlights*
- *The Horn Book*
- *Kirkus Reviews*
- *Ladybug* (ages 3–6)
- *Muse* (ages 9–14)
- *National Geographic Kids* (ages 6–14)
- *New Moon Girls* (ages 8 and up)
- *Odyssey* (ages 9–14)
- *Publishers Lunch* (email)
- *Publishers Marketplace*
- *Publishers Weekly* magazine (specifically: Spring and Fall children’s issues)
- *PW Daily Newsletter* (email)
- *Ranger Rick* (ages 7–12)
- *School Library Journal*
- *Spider* (ages 6–9)
- *Stone Soup* (ages 8–13)
- *Time for Kids* (4 versions for different age groups)
- *The Writer*
- *Writer’s Digest*

### **GROUPS/ASSOCIATIONS (MEMBERSHIP FEES REQUIRED)**

- Bay Area Editors’ Forum (receive a listing in database of editors, join discussion list)
- Editorial Freelancers Association (receive job ads, join discussion list, post a public profile, volunteer, take classes)
- Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (if specializing, consider joining as an editor/associate member)

## **ONLINE PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING**

- EFA opportunities: FB page, Twitter chats, members-only discussion group
- Facebook (track publishers and authors, join editorial groups, connect with colleagues)
- Google+ (connect with colleagues, join relevant circles)
- LinkedIn (create a compelling profile, follow publishers to see job ads, join discussion groups, connect with colleagues)
- Twitter (connect with authors, other editors, publishers, professional orgs, editorial resources; follow kidlit chats)

## **AGENT- AND PUBLISHER-FINDING RESOURCES**

**Hint:** Learn from/find clients through these resources—and also recommend them to your author clients, as appropriate.

### **AgentQuery.com**

<http://www.agentquery.com/>

A huge agent database ripe for the searching.

### **American Publishing Companies**

<http://www.publishersglobal.com/directory/united-states/>

Here you'll find quick links to directories of children's publishers and educational publishers. You can also search by location (maybe yours!).

### **Association of Authors' Representatives**

<http://aaronline.org/>

Members of this professional association agree to a canon of business and publishing ethics.

### **Book Editors and Book Publishers: Children's and Parenting Books**

<http://www.bookmarket.com/childrens.htm>

### **Children's Book Publishers in Yahoo! Directory**

[http://dir.yahoo.com/business\\_and\\_economy/shopping\\_and\\_services/publishers/children\\_s/](http://dir.yahoo.com/business_and_economy/shopping_and_services/publishers/children_s/)

### **Children's Publishers**

<http://www.everywritersresource.com/childrensbookpublishers.html>

### **Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market**

This annual publication contains market listings for U.S. children's publishers and can help an author determine where to submit and an editor decide where to market his/her services.

### **Guide to Literary Agents Blog**

<http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog/>

The editor of the annual agent directory *Guide to Literary Agents* blogs about agency and other industry news. The *GLA* also produces an annual printed publication. This, along with *CWIM* and *Writer's Market*, is put out by Writer's Digest Books.

### **LiteraryMarketPlace.com**

[http://literarymarketplace.com/lmp/us/index\\_us.asp](http://literarymarketplace.com/lmp/us/index_us.asp)

The classic (and huge) print resource for finding publishers, editors, and agents is now available online. *Full* functionality of the site requires a paid subscription, but LMP offers short-term subscriptions for those wishing to do quick research on a budget/deadline.

### **Preditors & Editors**

<http://pred-ed.com/pubagent.htm>

You can search this listing of agents to see which ones get high or low marks from the site and its visitors.

### **Publishers Marketplace**

<http://www.publishersmarketplace.com/>

For a fee, anyone can join this site and investigate agents' book deals. Look up editors here, too. Membership is month-to-month—which can be worth it when seriously investigating options. (Great site to recommend to authors wanting to submit manuscripts.) PM also offers a daily newsletter, *Publishers Lunch*. PM members receive the full version, and others can sign up for an abbreviated version. The Publishers Lunch Job Board is available here <https://www.publishersmarketplace.com/jobs/>.

### **Publishing Central Directory: Children's Book Publishers**

<http://publishingcentral.com/subject.html?sid=86?si=1>

### **Publishing Central Directory: Educational Book Publishers**

<http://publishersarchive.com/educational-book-publishers.php>

**Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators** (Yes, it's mentioned more than once!) <http://www.scbwi.org/>

SCBWI is *the* international organization for professional children's writers and illustrators. They have many thousands of members, chapters all over the world, local and national conferences and other meetings/events, relevant-to-you

publications, and an online discussion forum. Children's editors can join as associate members. Joining is definitely not a must-do, but it is something to think about if you're specializing in the children's market.

**WritersMarket.com**

<http://www.writersmarket.com/>

The online version of the popular annual directory *Writer's Market*. It contains market listings available in the *Children's Writer's and Illustrator's Market*. Features agent Q&As.