**Writing Today’s Children’s Books**

**Sample Books and Resource List**

**Deb Gruelle**

**Sample Books and Ages**

* RAGGEDY ANN STORIES by Johnny Gruelle, Volland, 1918.  
  RAGGEDY ANN STORIES by Johnny Gruelle, Gruelle Company, 1961.  
  RAGGEDY ANN STORIES by Johnny Gruelle, Little Simon, 2015.
* HOW RAGGEDY ANN GOT HER CANDY HEART by Johnny Gruelle,   
  Simon Schuster, 1998.
* SLEEPY TIME COLORS by Deb Gruelle, Ages 1-4, 22 pages, Zonderkidz, 2020. A going to bed in favorite jammies, teaching colors book.
* TEN LITTLE NIGHT STARS by Deb Gruelle Ages 1-4, 22 pages, Zonderkidz, 2018. A going to bed counting book.
* PIG THE PUG by Aaron Blabey, Ages 3-5, 32 pages, Scholastic, 2016  
  A selfish pug dog learns to share.
* I LOVE YOU TO THE STARS by Crystal Bowman, Ages 4-7, 32 pages, Kregel, 2020. Love lasts longer than memory.
* STAY THROUGH THE STORM by Joanna Rowland, Ages 4-8, 32 pages, Beaming Books, 2020. Two friends sweetly comfort each other through a storm.
* FANCY NANCY APPLES GALORE by Jane O’Connor, Ages 4-8, 32 pages, HarperCollins, 2013. General market “I Can Read” Beginning Reader,   
  Level 1. (Beginning chapter book)
* TURNING PAGES: MY LIFE STORY by Sonia Sotomayor, Ages 4-8, 40 pages, Philomel Books, 2018. General market autobiography by Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor.
* I’M NOT A SCAREDY CAT by Max Lucado, Ages 6-10, 32 pages, Tommy Nelson, 2017. Teaches kids how to pray when they’re scared.
* INDESCRIBABLE: 100 DEVOTIONS ABOUT GOD & SCIENCE by Louie Giglio, Ages 6-10 (same as Scaredy Cat picture book), 208 pages, Tommy Nelson, 2017. Devotional with an amazing thing about God or science.

For fiction, this is the same age range for which Chapter Books are written, with illustrations added (often black and white) to keep the young reader’s interest.

* LOVED AND CHERISHED by Michelle Nietert & Lynn Cowell  
  Ages 8-12, 220 pages, Zonderkidz, 2020. Devotionals for tween girls to remind them they’re loved, and they matter.
* DOGS AT WAR by Connie Goldsmith, Ages—12 and up, 104 pages, Lerner Publishing, 2017. A nonfiction topic book about MWDs—“Military Working Dogs” for school libraries. Has small type and as many words as adult books, but has more pictures and visual appeal. Words are kept simple and explained if new vocabulary is used.

In fiction, YA would fit into this same age range of 12 and up.

**Resources for Writing for Children**

* WRITING PICTURE BOOKS by Ann Whitford Paul (Writer’s Digest)  
  This is a great book for many aspects of writing picture books.
* THE NEW COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN RHYMING DICTIONARY by Sue Young (Avon Books)

Online: Prime-rhyme.com or Ken Nesbitt’s Poetry4kids.com/rhymes

* THE CHILDREN’S WRITERS WORD BOOK by Alijandra Mogilner (Writer’s Digest)  
  An online way to check the readability scale of your writing if you write in Microsoft Word, is by clicking to see the “Readability Score” (which is the Flesch-Kinkade Grade Level Test).
* *The Book* by SCBWI (Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators)  
  The online version of this book comes free with your $80 membership to SCBWI (you can pay $7 more to have it printed out). It has articles on writing help, like writing queries, creating dummies, or self-publishing. It also has an up-to-date list of Children’s publishers, and Christian Children’s Publishers.