

NEW WRITER RESOURCES

"How do I (or a friend) write a book, get published, or market my book?"

I'm so glad you are writing or have written a book! Your story matters, and others need to hear about the aspects of God you've discovered through your study and unique life experiences. Here are some answers to the most frequent questions I'm usually asked to share by people who contact me with questions about how to get their book written, published, or marketed.

If you have more specific questions after looking at these resources, I'd be happy to schedule a free 15-min. discovery call with you here: calendly.com/deb-g. I love to coach writers on their journey to help them achieve their dreams.

IN-PERSON WRITING CONFERENCES I RECOMMEND

(Many organizations that offer in-person conferences may also offer online options now too.)

I first encourage new writers, if it's at all possible, to attend a Christian writers conference. These conferences are such great places to learn about the craft of writing and the mechanics of queries, creating book proposals, etc. They also provide wonderful ways to make contacts with other writers, agents and publishers. You can often make short appts. to meet with agents or publishers. Many conferences also offer the opportunity for a critique of your writing. (Making personal connections at these conferences have been instrumental in getting my own books published.)

- **WCCW (West Coast Christian Writers Conference)** Greater Sacramento area, Fall.
<https://westcoastchristianwriters.com/conference/>
- **Vision Christian Writers Conference at Mt. Hermon**, near Santa Cruz, Palm Sunday Week. This conference often has a morning track or workshops for writing for children.
<https://vcwconf.com>
- **Renewal Christian Writers Conference** (Northwest Christian Writers Association): held in Washington—May.
<https://nwchristianwriters.org/Conference>
- **Oregon Christian Writers Conference** (August, Oregon, 4 days)
<https://oregonchristianwriters.org/summer-conference/>
- **SoCal Christian Writers Conference** (Summer, LA area, 4 days)
<https://kathyide.com/third-annual-socal-christian-writers-conference/>

- **SCBWI (Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) GENERAL MARKET**
Holds large conferences in New York (winter) and LA (summer) as well as smaller regional conferences.
<https://scbwi.org>

SELF-PUBLISHING WRITING COACH

- Individual coaching by a certified coach who has self-published her own picture book and is a tech wiz:
Sarah@SarahEBrooks.com

ONLINE WRITING MEMBERSHIP GROUPS

Fee-based membership groups invite many writing experts, agents, and publishers to teach their members. A group like this can help a new writer make personal connections with agents and publishers.

- **Inspire Christian Writers** <https://www.inspirewriters.com>
Offers quarterly workshops, writing critique groups, and a yearly anthology for in which members can publish. This group is now international but began in Sacramento. I serve as the chaplain for this group.
- **Write That Book with Tricia Goyer** <https://www.triciagoyer.com/write-that-book/>
I've taught "Office Hours" sessions in this group (all teachings are recorded and archived). I would highly recommend it! Tricia is a prolific writer who knows what she's doing in this industry.
- **Hope*writers** <https://www.hopewriters.com/join>

Writing for Children Resources (General Market)

- **SCBWI (Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators)**
Offers big summer and winter conferences as well as local events for each region). They also offer, *THE BOOK* by SCBWI, all about writing for children. The online version of this book comes free with your ~\$80/yr. membership to SCBWI (you can pay \$7 more to get a print version). It has articles on writing help, such as how to write a query letter, how to create a PB dummy, or how to self-publish your children's book. It also has an up-to-date list of general market Children's publishers and a small Christian Children's Publishers section.
<https://www.SCBWI.org>
- **12x12** (membership group—opens every Dec.-Jan.?)
<https://www.12x12challenge.com>

- **Kidlit411**

A free Facebook group. I've seen good questions asked here before, such as, which publishers will accept manuscripts without agents? Search the group for your questions.

<http://www.kidlit411.com>

BOOKS

- ***The Christian Writers Market Guide***

Lists agents who represent Christian authors, Christian publishers, and whether they take queries from un-agented writers.

<https://www.amazon.com/Christian-Writers-Market-Guide-2020/dp/1621840662>

Searchable online version: <https://christianwritersmarketguide.com>

- ***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)

- ***The Children's Writer's Word Book*** by Alijandra Mogilner (Writer's Digest)

Offers the words kids should know categorized by age range.

[https://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Writers-Word-Alijandra-](https://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Writers-Word-Alijandra-Mogilner/dp/1582974136/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Children%27s+Writer%27s+Words&qid=1605749381&sr=8-2)

[Mogilner/dp/1582974136/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Children%27s+Writer%27s+Words&qid=1605749381&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Writers-Word-Alijandra-Mogilner/dp/1582974136/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Children%27s+Writer%27s+Words&qid=1605749381&sr=8-2)

- ***The Emotion Thesaurus***

Lists ways to describe a character's emotions using physical descriptions.

[https://www.amazon.com/Emotion-Thesaurus-Writers-Character-Expression-](https://www.amazon.com/Emotion-Thesaurus-Writers-Character-Expression-ebook/dp/B07MTQ7W6Q/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=The+Emotion+Thesaurus&qid=1605749418&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUFQ05JODVKTTk3U0MmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA0NDUyMjkzNTIQ)

[ebook/dp/B07MTQ7W6Q/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=The+Emotion+Thesaurus&qid=1605749418&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUFQ05JODVKTTk3U0MmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA0NDUyMjkzNTIQRjFVNTg3Sks4JmVuY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ9QTA4MTg1NTE1TUyxQTIRVTdJNjcma2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGYmYWN0aW9uPWNsaWNrUmVkaXJlY3QmZG9Ob3RMb2dDbGljaz10cnVl](https://www.amazon.com/Emotion-Thesaurus-Writers-Character-Expression-ebook/dp/B07MTQ7W6Q/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?dchild=1&keywords=The+Emotion+Thesaurus&qid=1605749418&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUFQ05JODVKTTk3U0MmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA0NDUyMjkzNTIQRjFVNTg3Sks4JmVuY3J5cHRIZEFkSWQ9QTA4MTg1NTE1TUyxQTIRVTdJNjcma2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGYmYWN0aW9uPWNsaWNrUmVkaXJlY3QmZG9Ob3RMb2dDbGljaz10cnVl)

OTHER ONLINE HELPS

- Rhyming
Prime-rhyme.com
Poetry4kids.com/rhymes (Ken Nesbitt's)
- Readability Score
To check the readability score of what you've written in Microsoft Word (grade level), google "How to find the readability score for your word document." The "Readability Score" matches the Flesch-Kinkade Grade Level Test.

MARKETING

- Bitsy Kemper on Twitter @BitsyKemper (31 days to grow your PB followers).

FUN WRITING HELPS

- Aqua Notes --to take notes in the shower (when all the good ideas seem to come)
https://www.amazon.com/Waterproof-Notepad-Notebook-Weather-ShowerThoughts/dp/B07KY1JJVH/ref=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=aqua+notes&qid=1605749035&sr=8-9

Best wishes for your writing journey!