

Scribbles

Spring 2018 Issue

scbwi Kansas/Missouri Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE KSMO RA

Editing My Work

BY ERIN MOS, CO-REGIONAL ADVISOR

I hate editing.

Yes, 'hate' is a strong word. But in describing my relationship with editing, it isn't overblown. My feelings are deep and instinctual. In my continuum of dislikes, editing lives on the end reserved for only the vilest of atrocities: war, famine, people who use my driveway to turn around.

But until the city approves my petition for spike strips, like those drivers, editing must be tolerated. Unless I want my work to stink worse than whatever my dog rolled in last night. But right now, I have an editing-avoidance problem to tackle. I love to write. It's a thrill, an enjoyable discovery. But editing is work. A brutal trudge that saps much of my writing joy. Because I'm a former math major and like quantifiable

metrics (I am so fun at parties) I logged my hours and can honestly say I average two and half times as long to edit a chapter into readability as I did to write it in the first place.

That's a lot of time spent hating what I'm doing. To make this less painful, I need to move my feelings for editing from the deep hatred end of the continuum to the more manageable dislikes. With enough work, perhaps I can get editing to occupy a position of dislike somewhere between selfie sticks and group exercise classes.

But how?

It isn't that I don't know how to edit. If you, like me, have been attending our regional conferences, then you know there are always sessions on how to tackle editing. I've taken online classes and read all the best how-to books as well. I have the toolkit, but the desire to open it and get to work is what's lacking.

Thus, I must confront my editing problem. There aren't any Editing Anonymous groups. Trust me, I looked. So instead, I'm enrolling myself in a self-led program of editing rehabilitation. While I realize there are some writers who revel in the editorial process (what is wrong with you?) I doubt I'm alone in this struggle. If you too need to confront your editing avoidance issues, feel free to play along at home.

(Disclaimer: these are not tips on how to edit. Only tips for how to get/stay motivated.)

• **Move locations.** I write in my office. I love my office. I have everything I need—from a comfy chair to a mug heater for my tea—in my office. But it's also the place where I pay the bills, answer my emails, and fill out health insurance forms. And it is amazing how distracting those things can become when I'm avoiding editing. Now I do my editing at the kitchen table. Sure, there's a T.V. nearby (Oh look, an all-day marathon of *RuPaul's Drag Race*.) But generally, a change of venue has helped my focus.

• **Start with the hardest, most difficult, activity first.** While this advice is ridiculously cliché, it turns out, it's also fairly effective. While I certainly don't edit every day (what am I, a masochist?) when I know I need to finish a project, I set an editing goal and finish that before I do anything else with my time. Once I finish, the rest of the day feels like a downhill jog.

• **I can be bought.** A few weeks ago, I found a pair of shoes I really wanted. I'm not usually the kind of gal who drools over a pair of heels, but these were perfect. And more than I usually spend.

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ERIN MOS, CO-REGIONAL ADVISOR



Erin Mos wears many hats (and several names) – not the least of which is regional co-advisor for the Kansas-Missouri SCBWI. Under the name E. Lillith McDermott she writes dark fiction from her home in Kansas City where she collects apothecary bottles, spell books, and the tears of her enemies. She periodically geeks out at GeekMom.com and her other work can be found at elillithmcdermott.com

Editing My Work ... cont'd from pg. 1

So, I made myself a deal. I set a goal of a large chunk of chapters and told myself if I finished those within a set amount of time, I could have new shoes. To my own surprise, this worked. This may be my new favorite trick. After I finish this article, I get ice cream!

- **Maybe I don't suck, after all.** As you've probably guessed, editing doesn't come easily to me. It's work. And sometimes it's work I don't think I'm very good at doing. When those moment hit, I reread a few chapters back. I never read what I've most recently worked on, but instead go for a section I edited at least a few days before. Sure, sometimes the rereading makes me want to beat my head against the wall. Those days happen. Those are hot chocolate and microwave popcorn days. (Hey, that *Drag Race* marathon's still on!) But sometimes, I have that magical moment we all strive for as writers where our own work's quality surprises us. But even if I don't get that magic, I am usually sane enough to realize that despite my fears, I am making my work better. And burning the whole manuscript is not the next step.

- **Getting started is more than half the battle.** This is why I have hope I can move editing to the same mild(ish) level of dislike that exercise occupies. Anyone who knows me knows that I love to eat and drink. But I also enjoy fitting in my clothes. In order to balance these two interests, I work out. Not a lot (again, obvious, if you know me) but enough. And regularly. There are no tricks for working out. The only way out is through. The same applies to editing. Once I've gotten a few paragraphs in, things start to come easier. Even better, just like muscles, editing chops grow stronger with use. The more regularly I edit, the easier it becomes.

While these techniques aren't in any way guaranteed to work for your writing life—heck, they don't always work for me—in my writing process, they mostly work, most of the time. I have goals, writing and otherwise, and editing, like exercise, is a necessary evil. And like exercise, editing is likely to leave you hungry, tired, and in need of a shower. But take a page from Nike: just do it.

School's Out, Will My Writing Be, Too?

BY NICKI JACOBSMEYER, KS-MO ARA

The time of year has arrived when the sun is shining (not as much as we would prefer), flowers are budding, and children are bouncing off the walls. Ah, yes, hold on to your seat because around the corner is SUMMER BREAK. It's alright. Take some deep cleansing breaths. We will make it through alive. If you work from home, as I do, the summer day scenarios are endless. How will we give our children the attention we want, and they deserve, without completely abandoning our work?

Alyson Herzig shares ideas in her article, "11 Tips to Survive Working From Home During Summer Break" at momtastic.com/parenting/545317-11-tips-survive-working-home-summer-break/.

1. Only allow electronics to be on when you're working.
2. Set a required reading hour, or more, daily.
3. Choose a long movie, or series, that holds the kids' attention.
4. Have a stash of crafts on hand.
5. Set the kids up with an Easy Bake Oven.
6. Give your kids an afternoon ice-cream break outside.
7. Turn on the sprinkler and let them run wild.
8. Sign-up for day-time camps.
9. Have your kids start their own (dog walking, lemonade stand, etc.) business.
10. Hire a sitter a couple of times a week.
11. Team up with another parent and take turns watching each other's kids.

Need more suggestions? Check out what local parents shared about their game-plan for this summer break:

- **Schedule** more quiet time in their room for self-play.
- **Plan** activities: painting, play-doh, etc. to keep them occupied.
- **Work** in 2 hour time frames giving the kids and work your undivided attention.

- **Enlist kids to help** with smaller tasks: filing, shredding, making copies, etc.
- **Purchase** walkie talkies so they can play outside and check-in with you.
- **Create** an hourly/daily schedule for each kid.
- **Pre-make** lunches and snacks so you won't be disturbed every five minutes.
- **Have** them spend time with a family member or friend.
- **Allow** extra screen time on busy work days.

One of my personal favorites is to brainstorm activity ideas with your kids and put them on a poster. If they say they are "bored" you send them to the "ACTIVITY" chart to pick an idea. If the word "bored" comes out of their mouth a second time, you direct them to your poster of "CHORES." You will have happy kids enjoying their summer or an immaculate house. Either way is a win, right?

No matter what the summer has in store for you, try and take one day at a time. Every day will hold its challenges and wonders. HAPPY SUMMER!

NICKI JACOBSMEYER, ASSISTANT RA



Nicki Jacobsmeyer writes fiction and non-fiction for children and adults. She has a middle grade book, *Surviving the Iditarod, You Choose: Surviving Extreme Sports* (Capstone Press, 2017) and a historical non-fiction book, *Images Of America, Chesterfield* (Arcadia Publishing, 2016). Her short stories and poetry are published in several anthologies. Besides reading and writing she loves to travel, knit, sunsets, family barbeques and watching a storm come in from her front porch. Visit her at nickijacobsmeyer.com.

ILLUSTRATOR'S CORNER

100 Things to Draw When You Have an Illustration Block

BY AMY KENNEY, IC

WHAT TO DRAW WHEN YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO DRAW

1. Draw your desk, and ALL of the junk...ahem... supplies on it.
2. Draw a self-portrait.
3. Draw a self-portrait without looking at the page.
4. Draw all of the people you see at the park.
5. Draw a painting at a museum in your style (use the Google Arts and Culture Museum View if necessary).
6. Draw the contents of your refrigerator from memory.
7. Draw all of the food you eat in a day.
8. Draw all of the food you WISH you could eat in one day.
9. Draw your favorite memory. Bonus points if you make it a comic.
10. Draw a childhood nightmare. Bonus BONUS points if you make it a comic.
11. Draw the first non-illustration photo you find in the search function on Instagram.
12. Draw a portrait of your favorite teacher ever.
13. Draw your ideal vacation. Bonus points for comics again!
14. Draw one character. Then draw that one character several times, aging them from infancy through old age.
15. Draw 10 different insects, real and/or imaginary.
16. Draw your favorite restaurant from memory.
17. Draw your favorite restaurant on location (or using Google Maps as reference).
18. Draw your favorite quote. This can be a hand-drawn type exercise, and/or just an illustration exercise.
19. Draw the contents of a closet in your home.
20. Google "unusual animal friendships" and draw your favorite pair.
21. Draw your favorite weather, and what you do in that weather.
22. Draw as many types of flowers as you can think of or invent.
23. Draw characters playing a game.
24. Draw your favorite story/fairy tale. Bonus points for comics!
25. Draw the main characters from your least favorite movie/tv show.
26. Draw a house.
27. Draw a house for monsters.
28. Draw a house for fish.
29. Draw a house for birds.
30. Draw a vehicle being navigated by an animal.
31. Draw a baby in a dangerous situation. Bonus points if you make this a comic. EXTRA bonus points if you rescue the baby in the comic.
32. Draw an animal dancing.
33. Draw the cover of your favorite book from memory.
34. Draw as many board games as you can think of from memory.
35. Draw your childhood best friend as an animal.
36. Draw your favorite TV characters.
37. Draw your hero eating breakfast with you, as if you have just had the best sleepover ever.
38. Draw your favorite song lyrics. This can be a hand-drawn type exercise, and/or just an illustration exercise. Bonus points for comics!
39. Draw all of the supplies/clothes you would bring with you to the beach.
40. Draw all of the supplies/clothes you would bring with you to go camping.
41. Draw all of the supplies/clothes you would bring with you to go play in the snow.
42. Draw all of the tools you own from memory.
43. Draw your favorite chair from observation.
44. Draw your favorite chair as a human.
45. Draw a scene from a book you have never read, but have heard about.
46. Draw the first historical figure you think of from memory.
47. Draw the first vehicle that comes to mind.
48. Draw the historical figure you thought of piloting the vehicle you thought of.
49. Draw a character with their family.
50. Draw yourself in first grade, along with your favorite toy at the time.

cont'd on pg. 4

100 Things to Draw... *cont'd from pg. 3*

51. Draw a cat in a way that would let the viewer know your opinion on cats.
52. Draw a dog in a way that would let the viewer know your opinion on dogs.
53. Draw your grocery list.
54. Draw yourself wearing your favorite outfit.
55. Draw yourself as a superhero. Don't forget a sidekick, and a special tool.
56. Draw your favorite cartoon character celebrating a holiday.
57. Draw 10 different kinds of tables.
58. Draw a robot with a virus.
59. Draw out your favorite recipe. Hand-drawn type, comics, go wild.
60. Draw a person flying.
61. Draw someone before and after a bite of something delicious.
62. Draw something before and after a bite of something disgusting.
63. Draw the meanest kid you knew in school as an animal.
64. Draw the cause of a terrible smell.
65. Draw the consequences of someone not paying attention.
66. Draw 10 different kinds of lamps.
67. Draw a proud kid, and what they are proud about.
68. Draw two friends in an argument. No comic this time. Show the drama in one image.
69. Draw a sleepy person at their job.
70. Draw a sleepy animal at their job.
71. Draw a sleepy monster at their job.
72. Draw your most prized possession without looking at it.
73. Draw your breakfast with your non-dominant hand.
74. Draw your name as a series of objects starting with the same letters as the letters in your name. (For example: AMY could be "airplane, mailbox, yak") Bonus points for combining the objects into one cohesive scene.
75. Draw your favorite season, and show us why it's your favorite in the image.
76. Draw a classroom of kids singing.
77. Draw teenagers in detention.
78. Take any character in the detention drawing, and illustrate why they were in detention. Comics bonus, naturally.
79. Draw your earliest memory.
80. Draw yourself at a book signing. Bonus points if you put yourself in the position of published book maker, and not a person in line.
81. Draw an animal family on vacation.
82. Draw a party scene.
83. Draw yourself as a machine.
84. Draw a room in your home at three different times of day.
85. Draw the cutest animals you can think of fighting a battle.
86. Draw 10 different kinds of shoes.
87. Draw all of the different kinds of hats you can think of/ imagine.
88. Draw one animal displaying several different emotions.
89. Draw your favorite animal enjoying a meal with you.
90. Draw your biggest fan (real or imagined) cheering you on.
91. Draw yourself as a cave person.
92. Draw 10 different kinds of art supplies.
93. Draw a city in an unusual location.
94. Draw a classic story or fable as a short comic.
95. Draw yourself having a really productive day. Surrounds yourself with all of the things you get done on that day.
96. Draw a famous character as a baby. Or if the famous character you think of is a baby, draw them as an old person.
97. Draw two monsters on a date.
98. Draw a child teaching something to an adult.
99. Draw the last person you spoke with cooking the last thing you ate.
100. Draw some sort of celebration, because I bet you don't have artists' block anymore!

AMY KENNEY, ILLUSTRATOR COORDINATOR



Amy Kenney is a freelance illustrator and children's book author based in Kansas City, MO. Amy earned a BFA in Illustration and Graphic Design from the University of Central Missouri. She and her husband currently live on 20 acres with one dog, one cat, and way too many children. amykenney.com

Wuzzles

BY PEGGY ARCHER, PAL COORDINATOR

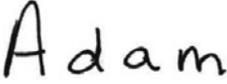
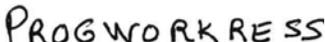
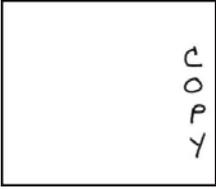
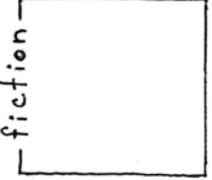
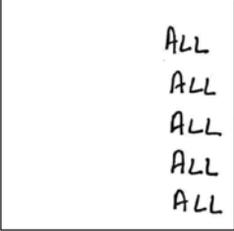
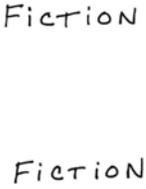
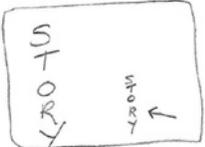
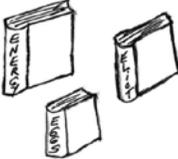
Typographic word picture puzzles, or Wuzzles, are puzzles in which letters and/or symbols are arranged in a certain way to depict a familiar phrase, name, saying, or cliché. For example,

“noon good” stands for “good afternoon” (good comes after noon).

‘eggs

Easy’ stands for ‘eggs over easy’ (the word eggs is above, or ‘over’ the word easy).

The following wuzzles stand for terms related to writing. So, take a break and wuzzle your brain! (See answers on page 6.).

1. 	2. 	3. 	4. 
5. 	6. 	7. 	8. 
9. 	10. 	11. 	12. 
13. 	14. 	15. 	16. 

Try your hand at creating a wuzzle or seven. Send them to our editor, Sue (suebradfordedwards@yahoo.com) so that we can share them with your fellow Kansas and Missouri children’s book creators.

Don't forget to check out our featured PAL Author of the Month on the Kansas/Missouri website at ksmo.scbwi.org/featured-author

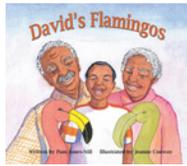
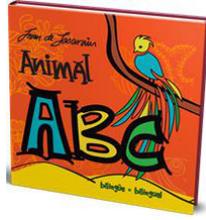
PEGGY ARCHER, PAL COORDINATOR



Peggy Archer’s most recent picture book, *Name That Dog!* (Dial), is on the Accelerated Reader list, and is listed with Scholastic Book Club. Her picture book, *Turkey Surprise*, was a NY Times bestseller. Originally from northwest Indiana, Peggy and her husband now live in O’Fallon, MO. peggyarcher.com

MEMBER NEWS

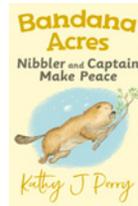
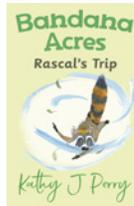
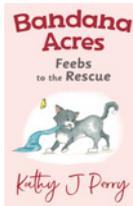
S. J. Bushue's *Animal ABC bilingüe bilingual*, a unique introduction to the ABCs, features animals whose names share a common beginning letter, regardless of language. Illustrated with the mosaic originality of Juan de Lascurain, this picture book's planned release date is June, 2018 from Star Bright Books.



Jeanne Conway has illustrated *David's Flamingos* by Pam Jones-Nill (a SCBWI member). Published by Clear Fork Publishing, Spork Books, May 2018

March of 2019 will be a big month for **Ann Ingalls**. Pajama Press will release *Pencil: A Story with a Point!*, Dawn Publications will publish *Why Should I Walk? I Can Fly!*, and Sleeping Bear Press will issue *Tip and Tucker: Road Trip!* co-authored with **Sue Lowell Gallion**.

Kate Perry has three books coming out on May 1st – *Bandana Acres: Feebs to the Rescue*, *Bandana Acres: Rascal's Trip*, and *Bandana Acres: Nibbler and Captain Make Peace*.



Anola Pickett's picture book, *Kate's Ocean*, will be on Doodle and Peck Publishing's 2019 list.

Donna Mork Reed's short story for adults won 3rd place in a Saturday Writer's contest. Her piece, "Haitian Gothic", will be published in this year's anthology at the end of the year.

Holly Schindler's latest MG release, *The Adventures of Super Susan* (featuring a hero whose superpower is kindness) is now available, as is *Invent Your Own Superhero*, a writing guide for young authors.



Jody Jensen Shaffer's fictiony-nonfiction picture book, *A Chip off the Old Block*, about a rock who goes on a quest to matter, published in February 2018 from Nancy Paulsen Books. Daniel Miyares illustrated. It will have a Chinese edition, as well.

Jody's poem "Happy Birthday, Maple Tree!" was published in the April 2018 issue of Highlights for Children.

Amy E. Sklansky's latest book, *These Little Piggies Go to the Beach*, was released in March by Moondance Press / Quarto Publishing.



Answers to Wuzzles:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. written critique | 2. first person | 3. work-in-progress | 4. copyright |
| 5. edgy fiction | 6. flashback | 7. all rights | 8. high-low fiction |
| 9. sidebar | 10. payment on publication | 11. cover letter | 12. website |
| 13. short story | 14. e-books | 15. poetry | 16. books in print |

Racking Up the Miles—and Fun—With Skype Visits

BY CYNTHIA REEG

Connecting with teachers and students used to be limited to in-person school visits or perhaps educational conferences or librarian conventions. Now with Skype there is a growing opportunity for authors to “meet” their readers—all around the world—without leaving their office.

Perks

The Skype option saves time and money for both the author and her audience. Skype visits provide the ability to reach students across the United States, as well as internationally. In one short morning, I’ve visited Wales and Canada or Puerto Rico and North Carolina. In addition, these short Skype sessions (generally 20–30 minutes) are given without charge by authors. For longer sessions, many authors charge \$50.00.

In 2017, I started exploring Skype for last year’s **World Read Aloud Day**, which takes place annually in February. First, I created a Skype account: login.skype.com/registration.

I’m average with my tech abilities, but I had no issues with quickly setting up an account. If in need of further instructions, Skype Support is available: support.skype.com/en/faq/FA12413/how-do-i-create-a-new-account-for-skype.

Second, I joined a long list of volunteer authors on **Kate Messner’s** website. Here is the link for 2018 authors: katemessner.com/skype-with-an-author-on-world-read-aloud-day-2018/. Kate also maintains an ongoing list of authors who Skype for free throughout the school year: katemessner.com/authors-who-skype-with-classes-book-clubs-for-free/.

Skyping in Action

By the time WRAD 2017 arrived, I had been contacted by a number of teachers and librarians. I was able to commit to four visits on that day. Each of my sessions lasted about 30 minutes. I kept it simple with a brief introduction concerning who I was and why I was passionate about writing for young readers. I shared some information about my recently released book, *From the Grave*, and then read a brief excerpt. Finally, I answered students’ questions and encouraged them with their own reading and writing. Prior to the visits, I sent bookmarks to each class.

The sessions went well. The students were attentive and excited. They enjoyed asking questions about writing. I encountered technical problems with only one school in Texas. We discovered on a practice run that they couldn’t successfully connect to me via Skype. So instead we connected with Google Hang Out. However, there was still a glitch on WRAD. They could see me, but I couldn’t see them! It was a bit of a challenge to stay focused during the presentation when I couldn’t see my audience or gauge their reactions. But I made it work and the session went well.

As a word of caution, always be prepared for faulty visual or sound. Sometimes the sound will echo a bit or be rather fuzzy. The visuals can be less than crystal clear, but generally they work well enough—even the international ones. I do try to connect with the teacher or librarian hosting the call prior to the session.

This helps avoid issues on the day of the visit and gives you an opportunity to ask questions about specific ideas to be covered.

Another word of caution is with time zones. Make sure both you and the teacher/librarian are scheduling the session at the same time. So far I’ve only had one session where there was a miscommunication between EST and CST. I keep a spreadsheet for my Skype sessions listing date, contact name, Skype name, email, grade, specific topic (if any), and time. Phone numbers can be helpful as well in case of an emergency.

More Options

There are other online options for authors looking to connect through Skype, such as **Skype An Author Network**: skypeanauthor.wikifoundry.com. Some publishers, like Penguin and Scholastic, also list on their websites their authors who conduct Skype visits.

In the fall of 2017, I joined **Microsoft Educator Community—MEC** (education.microsoft.com) and their Skype in the Classroom program (education.microsoft.com/skype-in-the-classroom/overview). I created a profile. I went one step further and created a writing lesson, using Microsoft’s Sway platform (much like creating a Power Point presentation). I submitted my lesson, “Making Your Story Come Alive with Sensory Writing.” A few weeks later I received notice from Microsoft that my lesson was approved and was available for viewing. Almost immediately, the requests for Skype visits started coming in from educators around the world.

In two months, I’ve had dozens of requests. I’ve met with more than 20 classes and received a perfect 10 rating from every educator whose class I’ve visited so far. The sessions I’ve declined have largely been ones where the time difference is too much of a factor. When I receive a request for a 2:00 a.m. session, I sigh. While I’d love to meet students in India or Dubai, I’m simply not a night owl.

All of these MEC classes are done for free. I’ve greatly enjoyed meeting the wide variety of students. The students energize me. They help remind me of the reason I write—my mission for advancing children’s literacy. However, I do have to set limits on my time, otherwise I’d not have any time or energy remaining for my own writing.

I encourage you to explore the fun and exciting options for connecting with students around the world via Skype!

CYNTHIA REEG



Cynthia Reeg, an intrepid librarian, ventured from behind the book stacks to contend with quirky characters and delightful dilemmas in her very own picture books and middle grade novels. While she has had her share of worldly adventures—fishing for piranhas in the

Amazon, climbing the Great Wall of China, and white water rafting in New Zealand—she’s mainly a Midwestern girl and currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri. Cynthia enjoys tennis, hiking, reading, and hanging out with her family. For more information, visit cynthiareeg.com.

The Market Place

COMPILED AND EDITED BY RITA RUSSELL

“One of the most crippling things a writer can do in the early stage of any book is worry about whether your story (or something like it) has been done before. . . The question isn’t, ‘has this ever been done before’ but ‘how much of me and my unique insight can I put into this idea.’”

Katie Davis – Author, Director Institute of Children’s Learning

BOOK MARKETS

BEAMING BOOKS, formerly Sparkhouse Family, publishes children’s books that nurture kids’ growth emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Topics range from self-esteem and kindness to ethics and faith. Currently seeking writers and illustrators to craft books that teach and entertain, as well as spark imagination in children and parents. Accepting manuscripts for board books, picture books, activity books, early readers, chapter books, fiction and nonfiction for children, and devotionals. Submit via Submittable on publisher’s website. <https://beamingbooks.submittable.com/submit> (*Children’s Writer eNews 3/1/18 and BeamingBooks.com*)

Petaluma, California-based indie publisher **CAMERON KIDS**, the children’s imprint of **Cameron + Company**, focuses on picture books, but is currently seeking manuscripts in all formats – board books, novelty/concept, creative nonfiction, chapter books and fiction. Publishes just 6 titles per year. Strongest consideration for poetic, highly visual, compelling picture book and board book stories that feature spare and lyrical text. Accepts full picture book manuscripts or queries-only for all other formats via email or postal mail. Submission guidelines on website’s Contact page. (*CW eNews 2/8/18 and CameronBooks.com*)

CAPSTONE publishes fiction and nonfiction books for struggling and reluctant readers. Majority titles developed in-house and written and illustrated by freelance writers and artists. Accepting illustrator samples and author original manuscripts and/or writing samples (for those authors seeking work-for-hire assignments). For fiction, send sample chapters and résumé via email. For nonfiction, a résumé, cover letter, and writing samples should be sent via U.S. postal mail. Submission details at <http://www.capstonepub.com/library/service/submissions/> (*CW eNews 2/15/18 and CapstonePub.com*)

Massachusetts-based **CHARLESBRIDGE** has put out a call for math-based fiction picture books for children ages 3 to 6. Seeks manuscripts that cleverly weave together engaging story lines, mathematical themes, and diversity, such that learning is a natural by-product of listening to the story. Stories must be fun, offer new insights, and entertain upon repeated reading. **Submission Deadline: September 1st.** Model books and submission guidelines are listed on the website under

“Storytelling Math”: <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0750/0101/files/Storytelling-Math-Call-for-Submissions.pdf?14909534260749705531>
(*CW eNews 3/1/18 and Charlesbridge.com*)

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL is currently seeking stories and poems that fit noted topics and submission deadlines: *Life After 60* (those things you always wanted to do and are finally doing now that you have the time) – June 30th. *Grandparents* (heartwarming, insightful, and humorous true stories celebrating grandparents and grandchildren) – August 31st. *Stories About Angels* (how you have been helped by angels) – September 30th. *More Lessons from Heaven* (experiences with the other side; signs or signals you’ve received from a loved one who has passed) – September 30th. *Stories About Mom* (specific anecdotes about you and the “mom” in your life) – September 30th. For more topics and writing guidelines, visit <http://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story> (*CW eNews 2/15/18 and ChickenSoup.com*)

Pennsylvania-based **Fox Chapel Publishing**, best known for publishing craft books for adults, has expanded its publication base with the launch of its new children’s imprint, **HAPPY FOX**. Debut releases hit the shelves this summer with three illustrated picture books that highlight endangered species and the impact of climate change. “These stories focus on learning through adventure,” noted **Christopher Reggio**, VP of Content. “Happy Fox books will educate, excite, and help children understand the world around them.” (*Publishers Weekly 3/1/18 and FoxChapelB2B.com*)

Penguin Young Readers has launched **KOKILA**, a new imprint that will focus on publishing diverse books for children and young adults. Kokila’s mission is to “add depth and nuance to the way children and young adults see the world and their place in it.” Publisher **Namrata Tripathi** is helming Kokila’s editorial team, assisted by editor **Joanna Cárdenas** and art director **Jasmin Rubero**. Kokila aims to release 15–20 fiction and nonfiction titles annually, ranging from picture books to middle grade to young adult, as well as graphic novels. The imprint gets its name from the Sanskrit word for the Asian koel bird, regarded in Indian literature as a sign of new beginnings. “The name helps capture who we are,” noted Tripathi, herself an Indian immigrant pursuing U.S. citizenship. (*PW 2/8/18*)

St. Louis-based **LION FORGE** was founded in 2011 as a comics and graphic novel publisher for older readers. Now the independent press, under its CubHouse imprint, is appealing to younger readers with the release of a line of picture books. The books, geared to kids 12 and under, will debut in May with two “edgy and humorous” picture books: *Oothar the Blue*, the tale of a depressed barbarian, and *This Is a Taco*, a meta tale about a squirrel who rewrites his story. According to executive editor **Andrea Colvin**, Lion Forge hopes to grow the CubHouse imprint quickly, with at least 10 titles publishing in 2019, and 15 to 20 titles in 2020. (*PW 2/22/18 and LionForge.com*)

LITTLE PICKLE PRESS seeks middle grade and young adult manuscripts that convey a “meaningful message to children or

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youth,” and can spark conversations about topics important to kids today. Wish list themes include racism, adoption, and refugees. Manuscripts must be “well written, thought-provoking, progressive, fresh, distinctive, and, if a picture book, lend themselves well to not only illustration but also to extrapolation into other mediums, such as interactive eBooks, book apps, and animated shorts.” Read the full list of desired themes plus submissions details: <http://www.littlepicklepress.com/resources-category/writers-2/>. (*CW eNews 2/8/18 and LittlePicklePress.com*)

PANTS ON FIRE PRESS, a boutique publisher of middle grade, young adult, and fictional books for adults, is accepting manuscripts with “big story ideas and meaty characters.” Genres run the gamut: Action, Adventure, Christian, Detective, Drama, Dystopian, Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Horror, Humor, Jewish, Love, Mystery, Paranormal, Romance, Science Fiction, Supernatural, Suspense, and Thriller stories. Query with the first three chapters pasted in the body of the email. Submission guidelines at <http://pantsonfirepress.com/submissions/>. (*Children’s Book Insider – March 2018 and PantsOnFirePress.com*)

In September, **National Geographic Kids Books** is launching its first-ever fiction imprint, **UNDER THE STARS**, with a 7-part book series by Trudi Trueit called *Explorer Academy*. Another series about mythology and animals will follow in 2019. Editorial director **Erica Green** predicts that by 2022, fiction will account for approximately 10% of the 100 titles published annually by National Geographic Kids Books. (*PW 2/22/18*)

“Whether shared on the road or at home, on a screen, paper, or tape, over time, imaginative tales well told will endure – if not on the shelf, in the hearts and minds of young readers who experience them. . . Fingers crossed.”

Sheila Greenwald, Author and Illustrator

PUBLISHING PERSONNEL NEWS

In February, **Hana Nakamura** joined **ABRAMS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS** design department as Associate Art Director of **Appleseed** and **Amulet Books**. She was previously associate art director of **Noterie**, Abrams’ gift and stationery imprint. (*Publishers Weekly Children’s Job Moves 3/1/18*)

Alyson Heller has been promoted to Senior Editor at **ALADDIN BOOKS**, from editor. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18*)

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN’S BOOKS promoted Sarah Shumway to Executive Editor, from senior editor, and Claire Stetzer to Assistant Editor, from editorial assistant. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18 and Bookshelf 3/6/18*)

On April 9th, **DIAL BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS** welcomed **Nancy Mercado** as Associate Publisher and Editorial Director. Previously she was editorial director at Scholastic. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18 and Bookshelf 3/20/18*)

Heather Crowley moved up to Assistant Editor at **DISNEY HYPERION**, from editorial assistant. (*PWC Job Moves 3/1/18*)

Trisha de Guzman joined **FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS** as Associate Editor, exiting Rodale where she held various positions. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18 and Bookshelf 3/20/18*)

Toronto-based **GROUNDWOOD BOOKS** will bring aboard **Semareh Al-Hillal** as Publisher, effective May 7. Al-Hillal is currently associate publisher at Kids Can Press. (*PWC Bookshelf 4/5/18*)

Alexandra West joined **HARPERCOLLINS** as Associate Editor, coming from Disney Publishing Worldwide where she was assistant editor. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18*)

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT is building its editorial team for **Versify**, its new Kwame Alexander–curated imprint, with the addition of **Erika Turner** as Editorial Project Manager. Turner was managing editor at the Vera Institute of Justice. (*PWC Job Moves 3/1/18*)

At **LEE & LOW**, **Kandace Coston** was promoted to Assistant Editor from editorial assistant. (*PWC Job Moves 3/1/18*)

Several promotions at **LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS**:

Deirdre Jones moved up to Senior Editor from editor; **Nikki Garcia** and **Daniella Valladares** rose to Associate Editor from assistant editor; and **Jen Keenan** was elevated to Associate Art Director from senior designer. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18*)

PENGUIN YOUNG READERS announced new leadership at **Viking Children’s Books** and **Philomel Books**. **Ken Wright**, formerly Viking’s v-p and publisher, was named President and Publisher of Viking Children’s and Philomel Books. Also at Philomel, **Jill Santopolo** was named Associate Publisher rising from editorial director. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18 and Bookshelf 3/22/18*)

Allison Cohen joined **RUNNING PRESS KIDS** as Editor, exiting the Gersh Agency where she was a lit agent working with authors across all genres. (*PWC Job Moves 3/1/18*)

Amanda Shih joined **SCHOLASTIC** as Associate Editor, nonfiction. Most recently she was an assistant editor at Penguin’s TarcherPerigee imprint. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18*)

At **SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN’S**, **Lucy Cummins** was promoted to Executive Art Director at **S&S Books for Young Readers** and **Paula Wiseman Books**. She was previously art director. (*PWC Job Moves 3/1/18*)

Annette Pollert-Morgan was elevated to Editorial Director at **Fire**, the YA imprint of **SOURCEBOOKS**. She was editorial manager. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18*)

“You have to let people see what you wrote. It will never be perfect, but perfect is overrated. Perfect is boring.”

Tina Fey – Author, Actress, Comedian, Producer

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AGENT NEWS

Becca Stumpf, formerly an agent at Prospect Agency, is launching her eponymous editorial service, **BECCA STUMPF EDITORIAL**, offering editing and copywriting services for authors, agents, and publishers. At Prospect, Stumpf represented young adult, middle grade, and adult literary and commercial fiction authors. (*Publishers Weekly Children's Job Moves 4/1/18*)

Kevin Lewis joined **ERIN MURPHY LITERARY AGENCY** as an Agent, focusing primarily on writer-illustrators and on diverse voices. Lewis was an editor at Scholastic, Simon & Schuster, and Disney. He is also a published picture book author. (*PWC Job Moves 4/1/18 and Bookshelf 3/1/18*)

Rachel Beck represents young adult and adult fiction at **HOLLOWAY LITERARY**. Beck is building her client list with voice-driven YA stories, featuring flawed, three-dimensional main characters and supporting characters, with complex plots that explore deep/emotional issue stories (think of works by Jandy Nelson and Courtney Summers). Not interested in historical, fantasy, paranormal, sci-fi or middle-grade manuscripts. Eager to find works that reflect the current social movement, with a nod to #MeToo or school shootings. Submission instructions on agency website. Responds in 4-6 weeks, if interested. Follow Rachel on Twitter at @Rachel_C_Beck. (*Children's Book Insider – April 2018 and HollowayLiteraryAgency.com*)

At the newly merged **MACKENZIE WOLF** literary agency, Agent **Elizabeth Rudnick** is seeking submissions from middle grade and young adult fiction authors of stories ranging from realistic fiction to fantasy. Big fan of horse or dragon-related titles. Rudnick also works with packagers to pair high-concept ideas and storylines with capable writers. To submit a project, send a query along with a writing sample. Query details on the agency website's Contact page. (*Children's Writer eNews 3/15/18 and MWLit.com*)

“Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.”

Maya Angelou – Award-winning Poet, Author, Activist

MAGAZINE MARKET

SPIDER, a literary magazine for children 6-9, features fresh and engaging literature, poems, articles, and activities for newly independent readers. Editors seek well-crafted submissions with strong “kid appeal,” i.e. containing large doses of humor, adventure, and suspense. Welcomes fiction, non-fiction, activities, and poetry. Upcoming themes and deadlines: Inventions – May 15th, Mysterious Monsters – June 15th, Our Diverse World – July 15th. For additional topics and submission guidelines, visit the Cricket Media Submittable page: <https://cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17817/spider-magazine-for-ages-6-9> (*Children's Book Insider – April 2018 and CricketMedia.com*)

BOYS' LIFE is the monthly magazine published by the Boy Scouts of America, for boys ages 6 to 17 (target 12). Buys

nonfiction only, as all fiction is by assignment only. Editors recommend looking “at a current list of the BSA's more than 100 Merit badge pamphlets” to get an idea of possible subjects. Also, research market by reading recent issues, available at most libraries. Pays from \$500 to \$1500 dollars. Accepts Queries Only. No Unsolicited Manuscripts. Query by mail, not email. Writer's guidelines detailed here: https://media.scouting.org/boyslife/about/contributors/writers.pdf?inf_contact_key=ffbbbf807ba8387b055f53c04f8ec46ff9d927acdf5bcc53428b6970b73f82bf (*Children's Writer eNews 3/15/18*)

“If you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.”

Neil Gaiman – Newbery Award-winning Author

EDUCATION MARKET

SCHOOLWIDE is accepting unsolicited submissions of books, articles, and short stories for its Web-based library, Zing. Zing's primary audience is students in grades K-8 (ages 5-14), as well as their teachers and parents. Especially seeking stories for Grade 6 (short fiction, realistic, and historical) and Grade 8 (narrative nonfiction, expository nonfiction, science fiction, and realistic fiction). Target word range for these older levels is 1000-1500. Payment for stories on Zing is based on website views. For more information, visit <https://www.schoolwide.com/publishing> Or contact Susan Tierney, Acquisitions and Development Editor at stierney@schoolwide.com (*Children's Writer eNews 3/8/18 and Schoolwide.com*)

“One hundred percent of the shots you don't take don't go in.”

Wayne Gretzky – Former Pro Ice Hockey Player

CONTESTS

2018 LEE & LOW NEW VISIONS AWARD CONTEST TU BOOKS, the middle grade and young adult imprint of Lee & Low Books, welcomes entries of middle grade, young adult, and graphic novel fiction by unpublished writers of color and Native/Indigenous nations for its 6th annual contest. “Manuscripts should address the needs of children and teens of color and Native nations by providing stories with which they can identify and relate, and which promote a greater understanding of one another.” Submit full manuscript plus synopsis. Winner receives \$2,000 plus standard publication contract, including basic advance and royalties for a first time author. Honor Award receives \$1,000.

Submission deadline: August 31st. No entry fee.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/writers-illustrators/new-visions-award> (*LeeandLow.com and SubitClub.com*)

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2018 POCKETS FICTION WRITING CONTEST

Pockets, an inter-denominational devotional magazine for children ages 6-12, is accepting entries for its annual contest. Stories must be 750 to 1,000 words. Disqualified if shorter or longer by even a few words! Multiple submissions are permitted. Material must be previously unpublished. Winner will receive \$500 and publication in the magazine.

Submission deadline: August 15th. No entry fee.

<http://pockets.upperroom.org/write-for-us/annual-fiction-contest/>
(*Children's Book Insider* – March 2018 and *Pockets.Upperroom.org*)

“Writers are not here to conform. We are here to challenge. We’re not here to be comfortable—we’re here, really, to shake things up. That’s our job.”

Jeanette Winterson – Award-winning English writer

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018 CHRISTOPHER AWARDS

Launched in 1949, these awards recognize writers and artists whose work in film, TV, and literature “affirms the highest values of the human spirit.” (*Publishers Weekly Children's Bookshelf* 4/3/18)

Through Your Eyes by **Ainsley Earhardt**, illustrated by **Ji-Hyuk Kim** – A trip to the park prompts a little girl's discovery of the world's ordinary joys and miracles, leading her mom to a new perspective on life. (Preschool and up).

Pocket Full of Colors by **Amy Guglielmo** and **Jacqueline Tourville**, illustrated by **Brigitte Barrager** – Introduces readers to trailblazing illustrator, designer, and animator Mary Blair, one of the first women ever hired by Walt Disney Studios. (Kindergarten and up).

Before She Was Harriet by **Lesla Cline-Ransome**, illustrated by **James E. Ransome** – Harriet Tubman's bravery extends far beyond her work leading slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad to include being a Union spy, nurse, suffragist, and more, as shown in this poetic tribute. (Ages 6 and up).

Genevieve's War by **Patricia Reilly Giff** – An American girl's vacation at her grandmother's farm in 1939 France takes an ominous turn when the Nazi occupation begins, leaving her in dangerous circumstances that test her character and sense of personal responsibility. (Ages 8 and up).

The Red Bandanna by **Tom Rinaldi** – Explores the life of 9/11 hero Welles Crowther, who worked on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's South Tower and helped lead 18 people to safety before being killed himself. (Ages 10 and up).

Crossing the Line by **Bibi Belford** – In racially-charged post-World War I Chicago, the friendship between a white boy and an African American child sparks outrage in the community and challenges the youngsters to practice courage and loyalty in the face of hatred. (Young Adult).

ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD

Jacqueline Woodson is the winner of the 2018 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, the world's largest children's book award with a prize of more than \$600,000. The ALMA jury praised Woodson for “[Introducing] us to resilient young people fighting to find a place where their lives can take root. In language as light as air, she tells stories of resounding richness and depth. Jacqueline Woodson captures a unique poetic note in a daily reality divided between sorrow and hope.” Woodson made her debut as a children's author in 1990 with *Last Summer with Maizon*, the first in a trilogy exploring the friendship of two girls. Since then, she has published more than 30 books, including novels, poetry, and picture books. Her memoir in verse, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, received the 2014 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. (*Publishers Weekly* 3/27/18)

2018 AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION YOUTH MEDIA AWARD WINNERS

To read the complete list of winners and honorees, visit the website: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/2018-alsc-book-media-award-winners>

Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children: *Wolf in the Snow*, written and illustrated by **Matthew Cordell**

John Newbery Medal for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature: *Hello, Universe*, written by **Erin Entrada Kelly**

Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award recognizing an African-American author of outstanding books for children and young adults: *Piecing Me Together*, written by **Renée Watson**

Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award recognizes an African-American illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults: *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*, illustrated by **Ekua Holmes**

John Steptoe Award for New Talent (Author) offers visibility for excellence in writing at the beginning of a career as a published African-American creator of children's books: *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*, written by **David Barclay Moore**

John Steptoe Award for New Talent (Illustrator) affirms new talent and offers visibility for excellence in illustration at the beginning of a career as a published African-American creator of children's books: *Mama Africa! How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with Her Song*, illustrated by **Charly Palmer**

Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement recognizes an African American author, illustrator or author/illustrator who has made a significant and lasting literary contribution through her body of published books for children and/or young adults. With an illustrious career spanning more than 45 years, author **Eloise Greenfield** is the 2018 Hamilton Award recipient. Greenfield's first book was published in 1972, and she has subsequently written and published more than forty beautiful tales about the African-American experience, from 1978's

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playful *Honey, I Love* to 2010's soul stirring *The Great Migration*.

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults: *We Are Okay*, written by **Nina LaCour**

Pura Belpré Illustrator Award honors a Latino illustrator whose children's books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience: *La Princesa and the Pea*, illustrated by **Juana Martinez-Neal** (Text by **Cathy Camper**)

Pura Belpré Author Award honors a Latino author whose children's books best portray, affirm, and celebrate the Latino cultural experience: *Lucky Broken Girl*, written by **Ruth Behar**

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award for most distinguished informational book for children: *Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961*, written by **Larry Dane Brimmer**

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the most distinguished beginning reader book: *Charlie & Mouse*, written by **Laurel Snyder**

RITA D. RUSSELL



Rita D. Russell joined SCBWI in 2009, after hearing Anna Dewdney sing its praises. When not writing picture books and chapter books, the former journalist and television script writer teaches screenwriting at St. Louis Community College.

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