

Writing for Kids: A look at types of children's books

Creative Writing 2



Lots of options...

- When it comes to writing books for kids, there are many styles to choose from.
- The following slides will talk about some of those styles.

Picture Books

- Tend to be for children ages 2-7.
- Aspects of the story are visualised in an illustration to help the young readers connect words to actions, images, etc.
- Usually no more than 500-1,000 words per book. Fewer words for books designed for the younger readers.
- Designed to be read many times.

Easy Readers

- Geared for beginning readers in the 1st and 2nd grade (and for older children who are not yet comfortable with longer, more difficult reading material).
- These books have the same general shape as books for older readers.
- Word counts for these books can be as low as 300, but usually average between 900-1,200 words.
- Tend to still have illustrations (but fewer of them)

Chapter Books

- Chapter books are designed for the young readers that have outgrown the level of the easy readers.
- Characters tend to be fully developed and includes more complex stories.
- Word count here can vary from 4,000-10,000 words.
- Still has an occasional illustration.

“Middle-Age” Fiction

- Geared toward readers in the 3rd to 6th grade (ages 8-11).
- These stories tend to have plenty of action and a solid story but an uncomplicated plot.
- Can come with or without illustrations.
- Word counts here range from 25,000-45,000.

Young Adult Fiction

- More advanced in style and plot—with more attention to detail.
- Stories deal with more complicated relationships, values, and feelings.
- All subjects are available for use.
- Word counts hover in the 45,000-70,000 count.