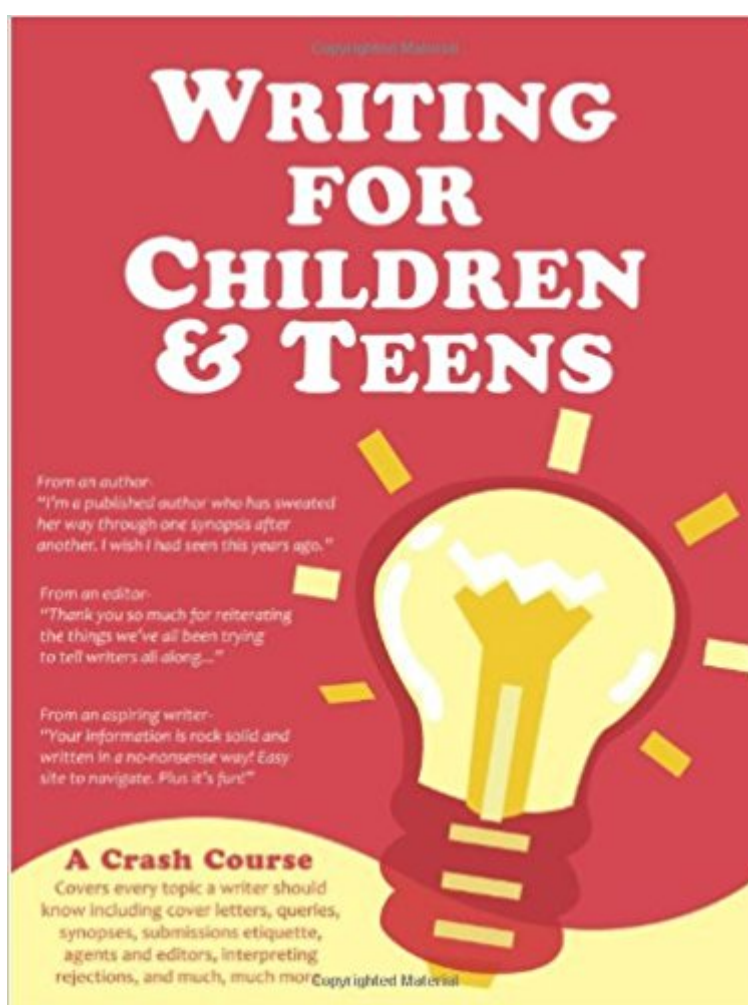


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# Writing For Children And Teens: A Crash Course (How To Write, Revise, And Publish A Kid's Or Teen Book With Children's Book Publishers)



## Synopsis

Nowhere will you find a more comprehensive, current, and detailed writing course designed specifically for writing children's and teen books, written by an author who is in the field today. **WRITING FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS: A CRASH COURSE** is a ten-step course that relays all the nitty-gritty details of the business, beginning with how to evaluate your book idea all the way to pitching your book to editors and agents. Within each step, you'll find clear and specific information covering topics such as the children's book market, manuscript format, revision tips, finding the right agent or publisher, submission etiquette, and common faux pas to avoid. This book will even tell you what kind of paper you should use and exactly how you should write your letters to editors and agents. Bonus materials include templates for all of your submission needs as well as examples of real-life editorial letters sent to authors from editors today. You will get a complete inside peek to the children's fiction writing market for those who want to write picture books, easy readers, chapter books, and middle grade or teen novels.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Cynthea Liu left a career as a technology consultant to become a full-fledged children's book writer, proving that anyone, no matter how inexperienced, can write for children if one has the drive and the patience to learn. She obtained a literary agent within her first year as a writer and sold two novels soon after at auction to the Penguin Group. Her third book, a YA novel, sold to Penguin on proposal. Her fourth, a picture book, was sold to Sterling.

If you're looking for a long wordy book about finding inspiration and lots of anecdotal stories about plot development etc... then this book is not for you. If you want a concise reference book you can use to find the rules of writing and detailed guidelines on publishers, how to interact with them, what sort of lingo they use, etc... Then this book is for you! I bought several books on children's book writing before finding this one. The information is simple. Some of it I already knew. But this is the only book I could find that was willing to fill me in on the secret lingo of publishers and how to talk to them. Every occupation from movie director to literature professor comes riddled with special lingo and insider terms. This book helped me get inside the head of a publisher more than any other. Some of the info is so simplistic you'll find it annoying, but if you find info here you didn't already know, it's gold.

The number of books lining the shelves on writing for children is mind boggling. This is THE ONE you should pick up. Cynthia teaches the ins and outs of writing strong books for children with humor and excellent examples. Though this kind of expression may usually be reserved for novels, it is appropriate to say that this book is a page turner. Once you start you can't stop reading it. And when you've finished it's a great reference. As an added bonus: it didn't break the bank to buy it. I highly recommend Cynthia Liu's book. If you're reading this you're already serious about wanting to write for children -- so what are you waiting for? Go order it!

There are lots of books about writing for children out there. Many are good. Some are great. What sets this book apart is Cynthia Liu's straight-forward, take-no-prisoners approach to teaching writing. There's no fat or fluff or baloney in this book; no long philosophical rants about writing. Instead, you'll find a distillation of how to write for kids written in clear, direct, language that's fun to read. It's like having a friend explain something to you over a plate of brownies. If you want to learn how to write for kids, then this is the book to get.

Unlike most readers of this book, I have no desire to write books for children or teens because I much prefer to READ books written for children and teens and occasionally to wax analytically (and at horrendous length) about same on . Thus, I was far more interested in Ms. Liu's other two books: *The Great Call of China (S.A.S.S.)* and *Paris Pan Takes the Dare*, but I needed to buy something else in order to get free shipping on my order, and I WAS a bit curious. Normally an author waits to, you know, actually PUBLISH a book or two before she presumes to tell you how

to do the same, but Ms. Liu published this book on writing for children and teens over a year before she published her first book for children or teens. What could such a newbie have to teach? Quite a lot it turns out. I was simply stunned by how logical, how useful, how educational, and how well written this book was! I found myself either nodding in agreement with her or thinking how much sense she was making! I know I have a much better understanding of how books get written and published than before, and I thought I was pretty well informed before. And along the way something else was happening... I started thinking, "I could do this." Now, I can assure you that I have no intention of following up on this thought! I'm a firm believer in the old adage: "Those who can, write; those who cannot, review," and I am quite content with the delusions of adequacy that allow me to write reviews; I don't need the delusions of grandeur that would lead me to write books, thank you very much! Besides, I lack the critical first step Ms. Liu identifies to writing and publishing a book for children or teens: an idea. But ideas or at least pieces of possible ideas have been popping into my head with increasing frequency since I started reading this book. Now, confidentially, I don't intend to act upon anything I've learned from this amazing book, but if Ms. Liu can almost inspire ME into writing for children and teens, ... what might she do for YOU? On another point I think this raises the bar on Ms. Liu's other two books. If she can write this well ABOUT writing for children and teens, then she ought to write pretty darn well FOR children and teens. We shall see. (Insert evil laugh here.)

I wrote a YA story, and needed some advice to publish it. Surfing through the internet I encountered Cynthia's book and website. I loved her honesty, knowledge and humor. I ordered her book and do not regret it. It has been a very useful tool to improve my story, and have a better chance of being published. The book is certainly worth its price.

Lots of good ideas and advice for someone giving writing a first try.

I read much of it on-line on the author's blog, but that required a lot of jumping around. Having the book is nice. There's also some stuff in there that is not on the blog. I like her straightforward language (e.g. Don't do that!)

What a joy to find a resource that's to the point. This book led me to developing a more professional package to further my writing career. I learned a great deal.

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