





# Revision Checklists for Children's Writers

## A CHECKLIST FOR YOUR STORY

- ☐ Does your manuscript suit the vocabulary, experience, and sensibilities of your chosen reader age?
- ☐ Does your story begin in an engaging way, putting your reader immediately into action and characterization?
- ☐ Does your story consist mostly of clear, immediate, active scenes with only brief transitions in between?
- ☐ Is it clear who the main character is? Does any other character seem to be vying for too much attention?
- ☐ Do you have a clear story goal for your main character?
- ☐ Does your main character pursue the goal in an active way?
- ☐ Have you removed any rescuers or overly involved adults?
- ☐ Do your characters talk and behave consistently and in an age-appropriate manner?
- ☐ Is your language lively, with specific, active verbs and plenty of purposeful dialogue?
- ☐ Does the ending of your story grow logically out of the plot?
- ☐ Can you state the theme of the story in a single sentence?
- ☐ Have you removed all story elements that don't serve to move the plot?

## A CHECKLIST FOR MANUSCRIPT PRESENTATION

- ☐ Is your contact information in the upper left corner of the front page, including name, address, phone number, and email address?
- ☐ Is your word count in the upper right-hand corner of the first page?



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## A CHECKLIST FOR MANUSCRIPT PRESENTATION (CONT'D)

- ☐ Is the manuscript title centered in all caps about 1/3 to 1/2 page down the first page?
- ☐ Do the second page and all subsequent pages include your last name, a portion of the manuscript title, and page number at the top?
- ☐ Do all the pages have one-inch margins at the top, bottom, and sides?
- ☐ Is the manuscript double-spaced, with no extra spacing between paragraphs?
- ☐ Have you indented all paragraphs?
- ☐ Is all dialogue enclosed in quotation marks?
- ☐ Do you allow only one person or character to speak per paragraph?
- ☐ Are punctuation, spelling, and grammar correct?
- ☐ Is the font either Times New Roman or Courier in 12 point?



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## HAVE YOU TARGETED A CHILD READER?

Look at your own article once more.

- ☐ Does the subject interest the reader?
- ☐ Does the subject excite you?
- ☐ Is the article focused and does it have an angle that's interesting to a child?
- ☐ Did you write the article from a child's perspective, using "wow" facts?
- ☐ Does the article seem to exist solely to educate?
- ☐ Is there a lecture hidden in it?

## ARTICLES

To plan your next revision steps on an article, review your draft and answer these questions:

- ☐ Did you get past the first draft or two that was written mainly for yourself or for some amorphous group of "children?"
- ☐ Did you revise it with a specific age of child in mind?
- ☐ Did you compare your article to others in that magazine? If not, do that now and list the differences you see.
- ☐ If you submitted your article, where did you send it and what is the age of that magazine's readership?

If you can't answer these questions thoroughly, watch your email for Revision Power Tips coming your way in the next few days! And check out our self-led course, Revision Power: Revise to Publish [HERE](#).