



Guidelines for **WRITERS**

CHRISTIAN FICTION AND BIOGRAPHY
FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

JOURNEYFORTH

What to Submit

- Christian fiction and biography for children and teens
 - Manuscripts should reflect the highest Christian standards of thought, feeling, and action.
 - Main characters should be fully developed.
 - Plots should have plenty of action.
- **Manuscript Lengths**
 - Ages 6–8: 3,000 to 9,000 words
 - Ages 9–12: 10,000 to 40,000 words
 - Young Adult: 40,000 to 60,000 words

How to Submit

- Include a cover letter telling us your target audience and your professional background.
- Include five chapters and a brief synopsis of the rest of the book.
- Send a typed or computer-printed submission. Double-space and number your pages consecutively throughout.
- Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with correct postage if you want your manuscript returned.
- Expect a response within twelve weeks.

Is It Ready to Submit?

- Is the theme strong enough to support a book-length manuscript?
- Are the facts carefully researched?
- Is the point of view consistent?
- Are your characters fully developed?

- Does your main character have a clearly defined goal he or she is trying to achieve?
- Is the plot organized, building to a natural, effective climax?
- Is your plot or theme unique?
- Is the language appropriate for the age of the intended reader?
- Are there books in the market similar to yours?

Tips

- Know what we publish. Many manuscripts, such as drama and romance, are outside our publishing plan and we cannot accept them.
- Understand that we use in-house authors for
 - short stories
 - picture books
 - rhyming text
 - poetry
- Remember our market is not open to stories that include
 - profanity or minced oaths
 - characters who engage in unscriptural activities without a biblical consequence
 - magic
 - witchcraft
 - time travel
- Consider writing first chapter books for beginning readers.
 - Audience: 6–9 years old
 - Content: exciting plot, uncomplicated story, vivid characters
 - Length: 4,000 to 10,000 words. Keep high interest words necessary to the story, but omit adverbs and adjectives.

- Vocabulary: 6- to 9-letter words
 - Syntax: short, simple sentences with just a few longer sentences interspersed among them
 - We are not currently accepting picture books.
- **Submit appropriately. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts by**
 - phone
 - fax
 - e-mail
 - audiocassette
 - computer disk
 - **Please do not expect a lengthy response. There are agencies that provide an evaluation of submitted works, but we do not have the staff to offer that service.**

Our Acceptance Procedure

- Your manuscript will be reviewed by qualified readers and our trade division editors.
- Based upon their favorable response, your manuscript will be recommended to our Editorial Committee.
- The Committee reviews will be evaluated and a decision will be made about acceptance. You will be contacted as soon as a decision is made.
- The manuscript editor will work with you to produce a final manuscript that fulfills the vision you and your editor have for your book.
- JourneyForth is dedicated to excellence in children's literature. We provide competitive fees or royalty rates, professional illustration and design, and marketing from a company that has long been a leader in Christian publishing.

Our Goal

Because our God speaks to us through His Holy Bible, we are rightly called “a people of the Book.” We desire to develop in our children a love for and understanding of the written word, ultimately helping them love and understand God’s Word.

We aim to produce well-written books for readers of varying abilities and interests—books excellent in every facet of their presentation.

Please mail your manuscript to

Mrs. Nancy Lohr, Acquisitions Editor
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JOURNEYFORTH

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