



Society of  
Children's Book  
Writers  
and Illustrators

# The Book in YOU!

[www.ShelliRJohannes.com](http://www.ShelliRJohannes.com)

[www.HeatherLMontgomery.com](http://www.HeatherLMontgomery.com)

<https://PaulaBPuckett.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.AmyOQuinn.com/>

[www.RandiSonenshine.com](http://www.RandiSonenshine.com)



# SCBWI Southern Breeze Region

- Georgia, Alabama and Florida Panhandle
- [www.SCBWI.org](http://www.SCBWI.org)
- Writer's resources
- Local, regional and international events
- Searchable speaker's bureau

### The Book is YOU!

Jo S. Kittinger  
Writing for Children  
The Illustrated Book of the Year



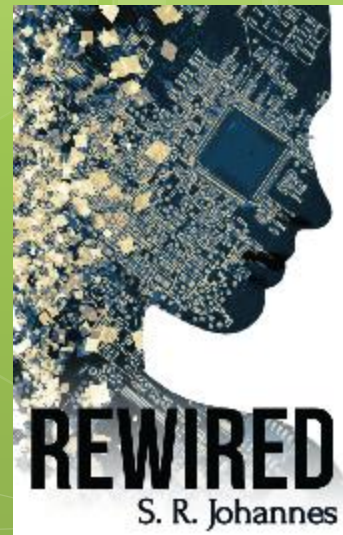
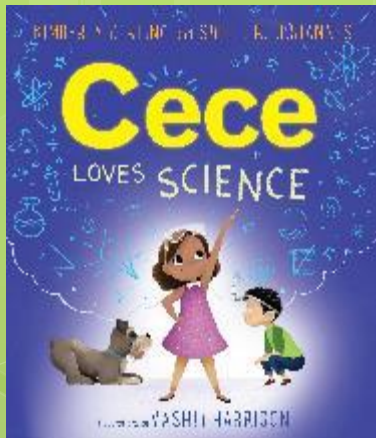
1. Write what you know or what you love. (Illustrate first, please!)
2. Show don't tell!
3. Editors are looking for "voice."
4. Consider your own age in illustration.
5. Leave appropriate space for editorial changes and stick to them.
6. The author does not choose an illustrator for his/her work. The editor likes to edit the illustration. Do not send me illustrations with your manuscript unless you are both a professional illustrator and author. Enclosures: quality photographs, 8x magazine articles.
7. An agent is not your new friend and not your foe. For illustration is the bottom line. Editors make decisions based on the literature, but the publisher's requirements are connected to profit. An agent is helpful but not a necessity to call a book to the children's market.
8. Believe me, I understand!
  - a. Edit your manuscript before submitting it.
  - b. Contact your manuscript as a professional writer.
  - c. Do not send your manuscript to many "readers," with gifts or no return books.
  - d. Expect editors to give at least 3 months to set up your file.
  - e. Do not call an editor unless you have established a relationship with them or you have not gotten a response to your status letter. (After one month.)
9. If you need your manuscript to meet a non-publishing deadline that is your own letter and not a deadline for the publisher. It is generally acceptable to carry on and proceed if it has to be.
10. Both children and adults are manuscript reviewers and appreciate honesty.
11. Certain reviews of book contracts may be slightly negative, others are not. One editor once was told that a book was to be rejected. A literary agent was left very shocked and angry with the editor. She found that the agent had "negotiated" with the children's literature agent. She was told that the book was to be rejected. (The really shocked.)
12. Be willing to work with a line on revisions. Editors sometimes editors themselves who are difficult to work with and with various deadlines.
13. Editors will have a vested interest in your work and will all cooperate with a publisher, whether you are professional, over time or more time. (Call) when you are published. (no editorial) I have published over 1000 books. Check guidelines on publishing reviews.
14. Do not send query letters, more than finished manuscripts, unless writing non-fiction.
15. Sometimes you are not invited to see editors. In the technology with editors and they may not of your course. In reading, all.
16. If you are ready to publish with me, I can help with the book.
17. Good, read, good.
18. Write, read, write, it's a never ending story.

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) organizes events to share ideas, the industry and network with other creative people. (www.scbwi.org)



# Jo S. Kittinger

<http://www.jokittinger.com/>



Shelli R.  
Johannes

# Shelli R. Johannes

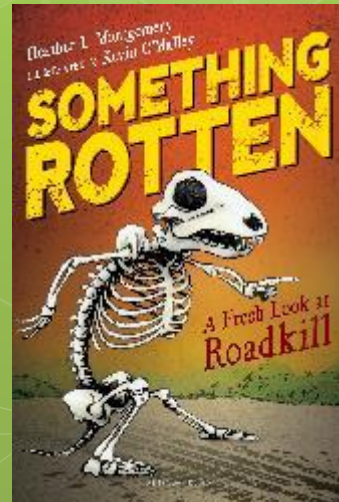
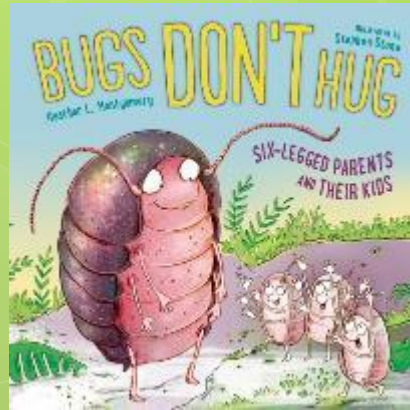
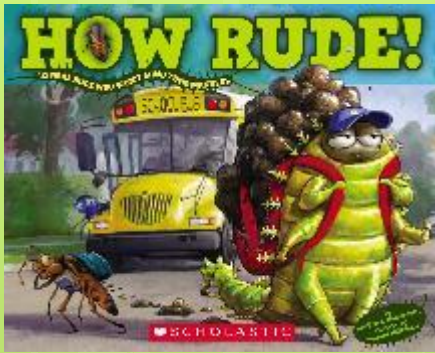
- I write for all ages 18 and under
- MG – On the Bright Side
- YA - Nature of Grace series and REWIRED (new)
- Picture Book – CECE LOVES SCIENCE coming 6/19/18 from harper greenwillow
- Hybrid – self published and traditionally published
- Agent – Lara Perkins (Andrea Brown Literary Agency)

# TIPS

- Focus on craft
- Make sure your voice connects
- Persistence!
- Know that anything can happen – you never know when.
- Revise, revise, revise
- Be able to take criticism/critique and accept rejection as part of process
- Know that writing is subjective

# Contact me!

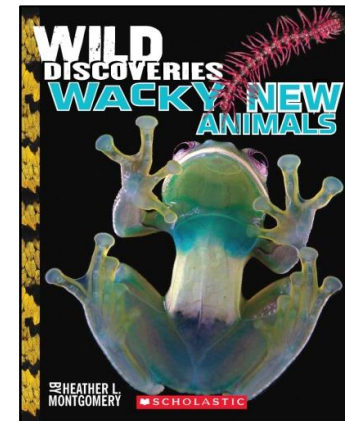
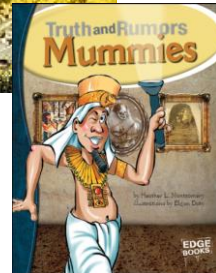
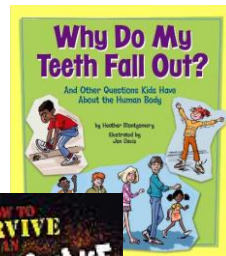
- I do school and library visits:
  - Multi-genre writing
  - Professional development
  - Creative writing
  - Using fiction to teach STEM
- I do writer conferences.
- [shellirjohannes.com](http://shellirjohannes.com) or [cecelovesscience.com](http://cecelovesscience.com)
- Email me at [shelli@srjohannes.com](mailto:shelli@srjohannes.com),
- Facebook: sjohannesauthor
- Twitter @srjohannes



Heather L.  
Montgomery



# Use Your Resources



# Be STUBBORN!

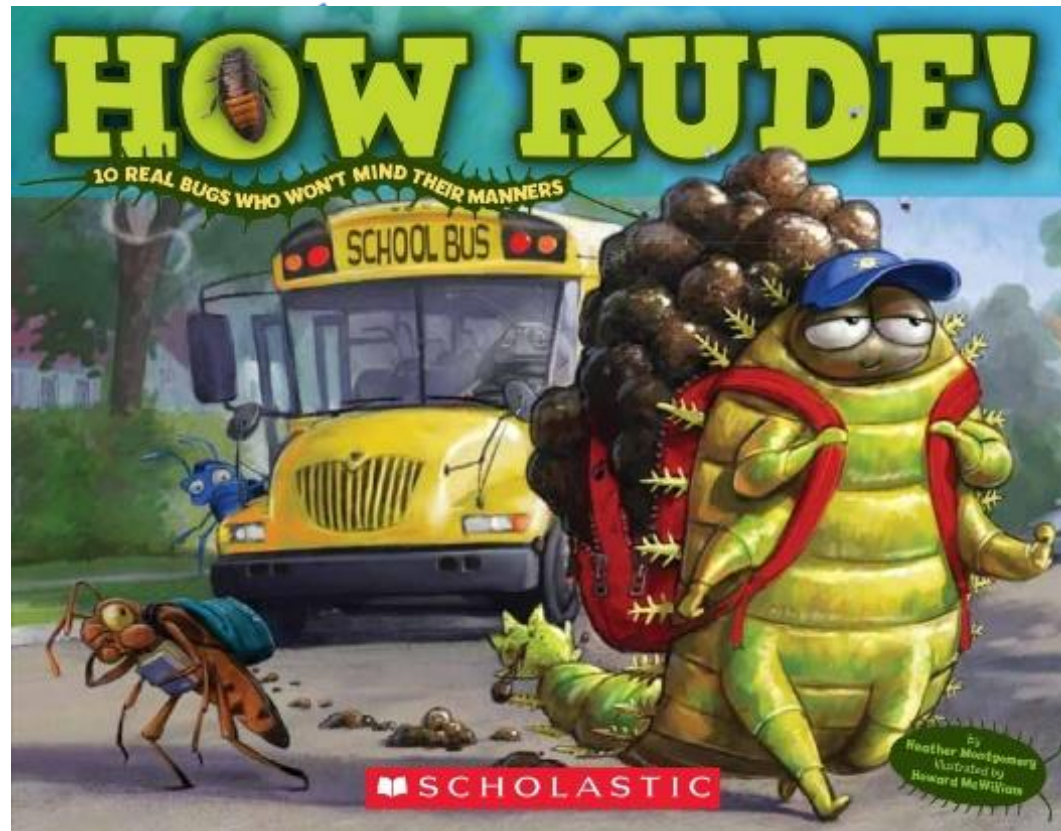
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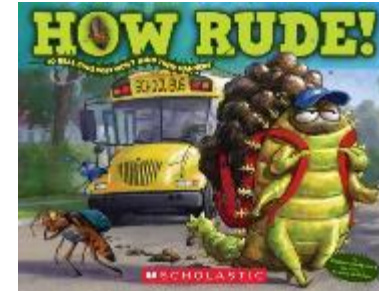
3/7/2008

6/2/2014

8/25/2015



# Time Saver Tip



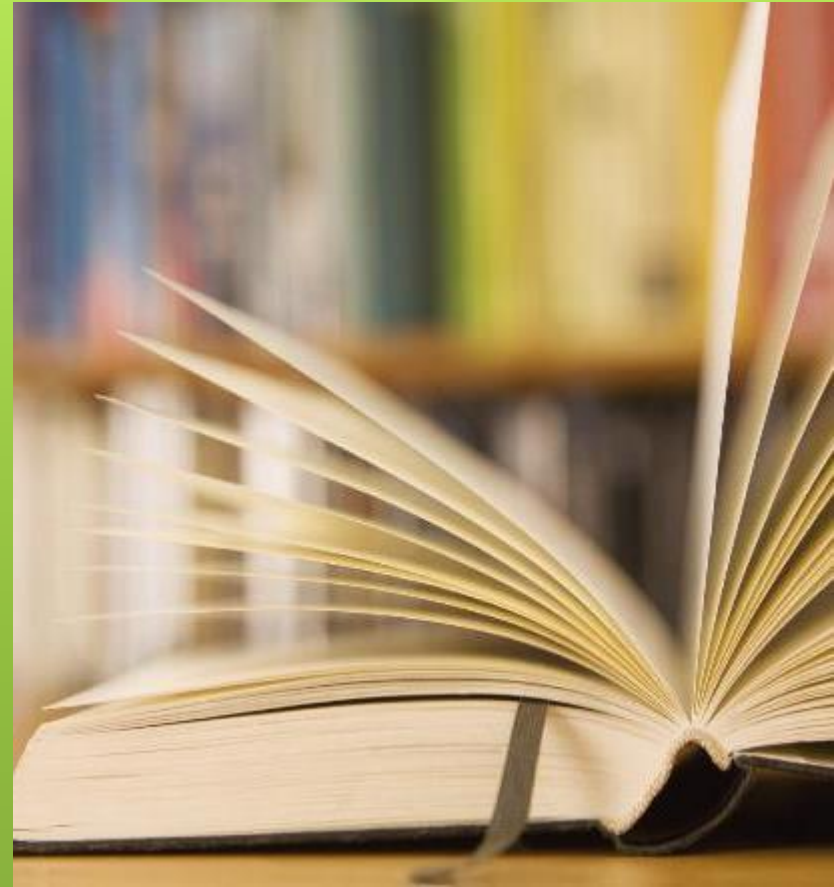


Amy O'Quinn





## FICTION vs NON-FICTION SUBMISSIONS



Some cultures do not distinguish between fiction and nonfiction – and instead talk of ‘stories.’ So...what’s the difference when it comes to submission time? Let’s take a look!

# Quick Facts:

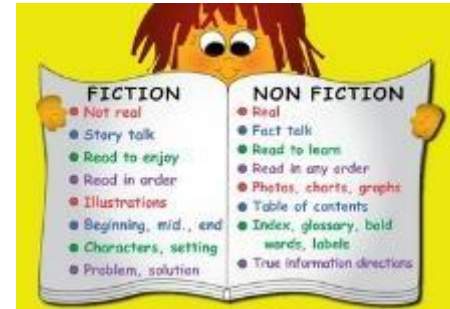
## Fiction:

- “You can make anything by writing.” –C.S. Lewis
- Fiction writers aren't as constrained by facts. Imagination is king!
- Stories still need to be appropriate for the intended audience—and not talk down to kids. Structure, plot, and character development are important. Dialogue and characters need to be up-to-date. Book publishers normally require a full manuscript for picture books and a proposal/outline plus three chapters for longer works. Magazine editors also usually want to see the entire manuscript for fiction submissions rather than queries.

## Non-Fiction:

- “Truth and reality are the heart and soul of non-fiction.”—Margery Facklam
- The non-fiction market is booming. There are eight publishing opportunities for every one in fiction. (Source: *Anatomy of Non-Fiction*)
- Non-fiction is usually easier to sell via a query letter, but basic information, verifiable facts, tone, and strong writing skills do matter. A new twist on an old topic can catch an editor's eye. Are photos available? Experts or interviews? Do you like research? Do you have writing samples or clips? Let the editor know!

**Strictly adhere to writer's guidelines for both fiction and non-fiction submissions!**



After sending a query letter and receiving the go-ahead to send a proposal to my editor at Chicago Review Press, here's what I included:

- Summary/Overview
- Audience
- The Competition—3-5 books on the same topic that have been published in the past five years—and how my book was different
- Manuscript status (word count/time needed)
- Biography of author
- Chapter by chapter summary/outline
- Proposed sidebars and/or activities
- Additional thoughts or ideas
- Sample chapter or chapters

## Anatomy of a Non-Fiction Book Proposal





Paula Puckett

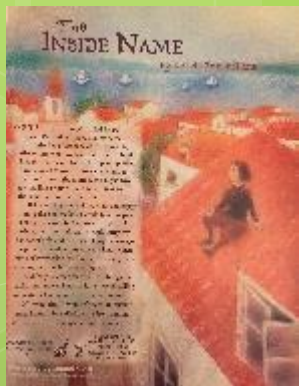
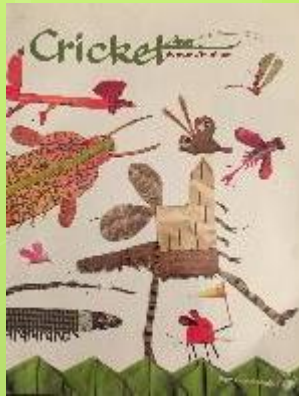




  
**Paula B. Puckett**

# What it takes

- Work for hire/flat fee
- Learn to understand the basic terms of a contract
- Patience!
- Self evaluation/redirection
- Sometimes, luck!
- Critique groups or writer's groups are important because:
  - they speak your "language," encourage your best efforts, point out strengths/weaknesses, and are a support team during the times of waiting



Coming Spring  
2020 from  
Candlewick Press!



THE NEST THAT  
WREN BUILT

Randi  
Sonenshine

# Experience, Exposure, and Networking:

**Classes, challenges, workshops, webinars, retreats, conferences, contests, critique groups!**

- Institute for Children's Literature – writer's craft, magazine and book markets, queries, cover letters, etc.
- Highlights Foundation Workshops
- Kidlit College (webinars with agents/editors)
- SCBWI regional and national conferences-intensives are well worth the money!
- **Sign up for critiques and roundtables with agents and editors, but RESEARCH FIRST!**

# Finding/Researching Agents/Editors

- Agency websites
- Publisher's Weekly-Children's Bookshelf
- <http://www.manuscriptwishlist.com/>  
(#mswl)
- Follow agents on Twitter
- [Writer's Market](#) (paid sub. or book)
- [Kidlit 411](#) –website and Facebook Group
- [Pitch Wars](#) (contest)
- #pitmad (Twitter Pitch Party- next in June)

# Helping Students Get Published

- NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program
  - Virtual classroom, teacher and student guides, Common Core alignment, tips from kidlit authors, swag, goal tracker
- Underlined (formerly Figment) Penguin Random House- older students
- Print and Online Markets- see my website:  
[www.randisonenshine.com](http://www.randisonenshine.com)

# Questions?

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