

HEATHER'S NOT NEARLY-EXHAUSTIVE-LIST OF RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN'S WRITERS:

*So, you want to learn more about the craft and business of children's literature?
Below are some suggested resources.
I suggest you start with one or two, see if you like them, and then gradually add
a few along the way.*

* CRAFT BOOKS (\$)

[Writing Picture Books: A Hands-On Guide from Story Creation to Publication](#) by Ann Whitford Paul

[The Nuts and Bolts Guide to Writing Picture Books](#) by Linda Ashman

[The Emotion Thesaurus](#) by Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi

[The Complete Idiot's Guide to Publishing Children's Books](#) by Harold Underdown

[Save the Cat](#) by Blake Snyder

[Rivet Your Readers with Deep Point](#) of View by Jill Elizabeth Nelson

[How to a Write Children's Picture Book Vol. I, II, III](#) by Eve Heidi Bine-Stock

[Flip Dictionary](#) by Barbara Ann Kipfer. Ph.D.

[Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market Guide](#), Amy Jones, ed.

* PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/WRITERS GROUPS (\$-\$\$\$)

[SCBWI](#) (The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators) - my #1 recommendation of organizations to join for children's writers. Membership in this global writer/illustrator organization entitles you to attend free and discounted events (non-members can attend events for a higher fee); to apply for scholarships, grants, and book awards; and to access free online resources, including regional blogs.

Critique Groups - Read **[here](#)**, **[here](#)**, **[here](#)**, and **[here](#)** for a series of posts about the benefits and ins and outs of critique groups. You can find critique groups through professional organizations, social media groups, even your local library. Reach out to your local SCBWI chapter or librarian for help!

[12x12 Picture Book Challenge](#) (virtual; challenge to write one picture book manuscript per month in a year; membership includes private forum, private Facebook group, monthly webinars, book talks, submission opportunities)

[Children's Book Insider](#) ("CBI" - virtual; membership includes monthly newsletter, above-the-slush pile submission opportunities, occasional webinars/ask-me-anything sessions)

[Inked Voices](#) (virtual; platform for workshops/webinars, critique events, and for writers to find critique groups)

[Courage to Create/Write Submit Support](#) (virtual; offered through The Writing Barn; CTC is a support community with coaching sessions, webinars, faculty panels, craft and industry workshops; WSS is a long-term course with writing exercises, presentations, networking, goal setting, private Facebook group)

* **WEBSITES/BLOGS/NEWSLETTERS** (free)

Author/Illustrator newsletters (many authors offer free subscriptions to their newsletters, including me! If you're interested in signing up to read occasional news and updates, please visit my website at www.HeatherPierceStigall.com)

Big Kids Writing for Little Kids (Amanda Davis)

Blissfully Bookish (Lydia Lukidis)

Institute of Children's Literature ("ICL" / IFW – Institute for Writers)

Kidlit411

Literary Rambles (Natalie Aguirre)

Manuscript Wish List

Nerdy Book Club

Picture Book Builders

Picture Book Spotlight (Brian Gehrlein)

PW Children's Bookshelf (Publishers Weekly)

SCBWI Insight (*global organization's newsletter*)

*SCBWI regional blogs (my region's (Eastern PA) blog is ***EasternPennPoints***)*

Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast (Jules Danielson; blog now retired but you can access the archives)

Simply 7 (Jena Benton)

Susanna Leonard Hill's blog

This Picture Book Life (Danielle Davis)

Vivian Kirkfield's blog

Writers' Rumpus

Writing and Illustrating (Kathy Temean)

Writing for Children While Raising Them (Tara Lazar)

* **PODCASTS** (free)

The Children's Book Podcast with Matthew Winner

Literaticast with Jennifer Laughran

Picture Book Look with Kirsti Call & Kim Chaffee

Picturebooking with Nick Patton & Nadia Solomon

The Manuscript Academy Podcast with Jessica Sinsheimer & Julie Kingsley

The Yarn with Travis Yonker & Colby Sharp

* **SOCIAL MEDIA** (free)

If you are on social media at all, you can follow other kidlit authors, illustrators, agents, editors, educators, influencers, etc. Look up some commonly used hashtags like #kidlit #amwriting #amrevising #picturebook (and all the categories), etc. SO many hashtags. If social media is not your thing, don't worry about it. You can be a fly on the wall if you want, but you can also engage in friendly discussion (posts, like, comment, etc.). The more you become involved in the community the more you learn. Other specifics:

Twitter (Twitter chats include #PBChat, #MomsWritersClub, #kidlitart, etc.; Twitter pitch events like ***#PBPitch***, ***#DVPit***, ***#PitMad***, ***#KidLitGN***, ***#LatinxPitch***)

Instagram

Facebook (many Facebook groups like 12x12, Create Engaging School Visits, Chapter Book Writers, Sub-It Club)

[TikTok](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Pinterest](#)

***VIRTUAL CHALLENGES/CONTESTS** (free - \$\$\$)

12x12 (mentioned above; year-long; fee involved)

StoryStorm (formerly Picture Book Idea Month/PiBoIdMo; free; challenge to come up with a PB idea each day in January; potential prizes)

March on with Mentor Texts (formerly Reading for Research Month/**ReFoReMo**)

Valentiny, Halloweensie, and Holiday writing contests by Susanna Leonard Hill (free; potential prizes)

50 Precious Words writing contest by Vivian Kirkfield (free; potential prizes)

Fall Frenzy & Spring Fling writing contests (free; potential prizes)

NaNoWriMo (challenge to write a novel in November)

Twitter Pitch events

#PBCritiqueFest (hosted by Brian Gehrlein; potential to win critiques)

#scbwiArtober

* **WEBINARS** (free - \$\$\$)

Many webinars charge a fee to attend, but there are some free ones out there too
SCBWI (look under the "**SCBWI Digital**" for upcoming webinars and archive recordings as well as the "**Regional Virtual Events**" tab for upcoming regional events)

Kidlit Socials (free; replays available)

The Writing Barn

The Highlights Foundation

* **CLASSES/WORKSHOPS** (\$\$ - \$\$\$)

SCBWI (virtual or in person)

The Highlights Foundation (virtual or in person)

The Writing Barn (virtual or in person)

Storyteller Academy (virtual)

"Making Picture Book Magic" (Susanna Leonard Hill; virtual)

Master Course on Writing & Editing Picture Books (Karla Valenti; virtual)

Write for Kids (by CBI)

Lyrical Language Lab (Renee LaTulippe; virtual)

Children's Book Academy (virtual)

Good Story Company

* **"BLUEPRINTS" or "SYSTEMS"** (\$\$)

WritingBluePrints.com (self-study instructional manuals for different children's lit categories—picture book, chapter book, etc.).

The Complete Picture Book Submission System (self-study; walks you through everything you need to know about submitting picture books to agents or editors)

***MENTORSHIPS** (free - \$\$\$)

Note: Most free mentorships are contests; you apply for a chance to be chosen by a mentor

Pitch Wars (free to apply; for MG for MG/YA/adult authors)
#PBChat Mentorship Contest (free to apply; for PB writers/writer-illustrators)
Rising Stars Picture Book Mentorship Program (Kailei Pew & Ebony Lynn Mudd)
SCBWI (offered by some chapters; usually pay fee to be mentored)
Private mentorships (many authors/author-illustrators offer these for a fee)

* **CONFERENCES** (\$ - \$\$\$\$)

SCBWI (virtual & in person)

Picture Book Summit (virtual)

Write On Con (virtual)

Rutgers One-on-One (in-person; must apply to be accepted)

***CRITIQUE/EDITING SERVICES** (\$-\$\$\$)

You can pay for professional critiques and editing services from published authors, editors, and agents, either offered. Sometimes this is an optional purchase as part of a conference or workshop, as part of an online course, or offered privately. If you are interested in having me critique your picture book manuscript, please visit the resources page of my website for details and contact me to check my availability and pricing

<https://www.heatherpiercestigall.com/resources-for-writers.html>

And so much more! As you can see, there are many ways to immerse yourself into the children's literature community.

In general, the more you immerse yourself, the more you learn about writing, the publishing industry.

Start small, with what you're comfortable trying out and able to afford, and gradually add more.