

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	v
Introduction	1

PART ONE

A Closer Look at Children's Books

1	You, the Children's Book Writer . . . Maybe <i>Defining Your Goals</i>	5
2	What Is a Children's Book? <i>The Variety of Books Published Today</i>	12
3	How to Become an Expert <i>Getting to Know Children's Books</i>	22
4	Lessons from the Past <i>A Short History of Children's Books</i>	30

PART TWO

Developing Your Ideas

5	Where Did You Get That Idea? <i>How to Find Ideas and Work with Them</i>	39
6	Sabotage Made Easy <i>Procrastination and What to Do about It</i>	47
7	Learning Your Craft <i>How to Become a Better Writer</i>	57

PART THREE

Writing Your Book

What You Need to Know and Do

8	Writing Picture Books	65
9	Writing Easy-to-Read Books	78
10	Writing Early Chapter Books	83
11	Writing Fiction	86
12	Writing Nonfiction	104

13	Writing in Verse	113
14	Writing Plays	118

PART FOUR

Selling Your Book

15	Who Cares? <i>Queries and Proposals</i>	129
16	Submitting Your Manuscript <i>Presenting Yourself to a Publisher</i>	141
17	For the Writer Who Is Also an Illustrator <i>What the Illustrator Needs to Know</i>	155
18	Changing Markets <i>Finding the Right Publisher for Your Work</i>	165

PART FIVE

A Publisher in Your Future

19	Out of the Slush Pile and into the Fire <i>What Publishers Do</i>	179
20	Your Editor—Friend or Dragon? <i>Working with an Editor</i>	190
21	Joining the Writing Community <i>Taking an Active Role</i>	194

APPENDIXES

I	Book Lists	201
II	Reviews	202
III	Children's Literature—History and Criticism	203
IV	References	204
V	Marketing Information	205
VI	Books on the Craft	206
VII	Services, Studies, and Support	209
VIII	Even More Titles by Genre	212
	Index	227