

CREATING RELEVANT READS GUIDELINES AND TIPS FOR WRITERS

READABILITY

READING LEVEL: the goal is to generate compelling and approachable content for readers who are in middle school, high school, or older. These guidelines will help you create your book at a more accessible reading level.

1 FORMAT:

Stories could range anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 words. Write short and well-spaced chapters. Avoid long, unbroken paragraphs.

2 VOCABULARY:

Use familiar words and repetitive vocabulary to help with comprehension. **Context Clues:** Support the meaning of more complex words with the surrounding text. Help readers deduce their meaning by providing subtle definitions or examples within sentences. For example: "the soup tasted **horrid**. I wanted to spit it out"

3 SENTENCE STRUCTURE:

Write sentences that are concise, concrete, and straightforward. Divide longer sentences into shorter ones. Replace commas with periods. Keep it simple and direct. Avoid idioms. For example: "She decided to bite the bullet and she picked up the phone" --> "She took a deep breath. She picked up the phone."

CONTENT

1 OVERALL:

Develop memorable characters. Use sophisticated and compelling themes and ideas. Create content that is relatable, age-appropriate, and culturally relevant for teens / young adults.

2 CHARACTERS & READER AUDIENCE:

Decide who you are writing for: a middle school student? A high school student? An adult? Write with your reader in mind: feature a main character who is **relatable** to them. Make sure they are at least as old as your intended reader. Characters should encounter situations that are familiar to teens and young adults. Challenges, settings, and themes should be culturally relevant and similar to those in readers' own life. Create characters who make decisions that develop the plot. Give readers someone to root for.

3 PLOT:

Feature a **strong central conflict or dilemma**, which is relatable and compelling for teens / young adults. Involve tough choices, without easily solutions. Write a story **sequence** that is easy to follow, but also engaging. Make sure there is a clear beginning, middle, and end.

4 DIALOGUE:

Use dialogue when it's natural, and advances the story's plot. Strong dialogue differentiates characters and adds richness to the story. Make it concise. Avoid unnecessary words. Clearly assign dialogue when it appears.

5 IMAGES:

Pictures and illustrations aid comprehension, but can also add elements to the story that are not rendered through text. Use images that will appeal to a teen/young adult audience: compelling, "cool" graphics or photographs.