



When you submit your manuscript for review, be sure to meet the 30 September deadline.

PROFESSIONAL TIPS

- Use a good weight, white paper, A4
- Type double-spaced, with no more than 25 lines to the page (except the first page, which is shorter).
- Allow margins of at least 1" on each side of the paper.
- Number each page consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, with the exception of the first page, which is not numbered.
- Include in the upper left-hand corner of every page (with the exception of the first page) your last name and a key word from the title.
- Select an easy-to-read style of type such as Arial or Times New Roman. Avoid elaborate or script-type styles. Your font size should be 12pt, **easy to read**.
- Dot-matrix is the least desirable type of printer; some publishers refuse to read manuscripts submitted in dot-matrix print because it is difficult to read. Laser and inkjet printers are preferred. In all cases, be sure the ink is dark enough.
- For continuous feed printers, use laser edge paper that tears smoothly. If you use a tractor feed printer to print your manuscripts, tear off the holes on the sides, and tear the pages apart.
- Keep one hard copy and one electronic file.

The format of the first page **MIGHT** look something like this:

<p>Your Name Your Address City, County, postal code Your Telephone Number Your Email Address</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TITLE ALL IN CAPS (half-way down page) By Your Name</p> <p>Your story begins here (three quarters-way down page).</p>

NUMBER OF MANUSCRIPT PAGES

For this critique, there should be no more than the first **15** pages if you are submitting for YA (young adult), NF (non-fiction), MG (middle grade) or Chapter books and no more than **10** pages for a picture book or selection of poetry.

In general, while there are *no specific requirements* (nor should there be) for any kind of book, a survey of SCBWI published members, editors and agents indicated ranges of manuscript pages that are suitable, and saleable, for particular genres. Taking into consideration that your main character has the greatest influence on how your manuscript will be viewed (i.e. if your main character is a chipmunk, it is not likely that your manuscript will be suitable for young adults), and remembering that there are exceptions to every rule, the following table includes the number of manuscript pages per genre most often cited by the survey respondents. We've added sample titles exemplary of their genres, but, again, the books are not indicative of any absolute.

Keep in mind, what editors seek are GOOD MANUSCRIPTS! It's they who will decide what genre best defines your book. For additional titles, please refer to the children's section of your local bookstore.

Genre	Number of Pages	Sample Title(s)
Board Book	1/2 to 1	
Picture Book	2 - 3	<i>Goodnight Moon, The Polar Express</i>
Picture Story Book	6 - 9	<i>The Paper Dragon</i>
Easy-Reader Book	10 - 20	<i>Nate the Great</i> by Marjorie Sharmat
Middle-Grade Fiction	40 - 60	Sid Fleischman's <i>McBroom</i> series
Middle-Grade Novels	100 - 150	<i>Superfudge</i> by Judy Blume, <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar
Young Adult (YA) Novels	175 - 200	<i>Speak</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson
Young Nonfiction	10 - 20	
Middle-Grade Nonfiction	60 - 100	Books by Russell Freedman
YA Nonfiction	100 - 150	
Poetry for younger readers*	15 - 40	Books by Shel Silverstein
Poetry for older readers*	50 - 150	