

THE 20TH ANNUAL 101 BEST WEBSITES FOR WRITERS

BY KAREN KRUMPAK, WITH SARAH MULLINS AND BAIHLEY GENTRY



For the last two decades, we’ve scoured the web for sites to include in our annual roundup of the best online resources for writers. Things have changed a bit since our “101 Best Websites” feature debuted in May 1999: We’ve eliminated Dictionaries and Search Engines (remember Ask Jeeves?) as primary categories, and our website listings are no longer merely a part of the now-defunct “Ultimate Computing Guide for Writers”—which included tips for “how to get online” and “where to buy a computer,” to name a few.

What’s remained constant, though, is our commitment to seeking out and curating a definitive catalog of the best websites for writers everywhere. Year after year, we review dozens of reader nominations, revisit sites from past lists, consider staff favorites and search the far-flung corners of the web for new additions—aiming for a varied compilation that will prove an asset to any writer, of any genre, at any experience level. Some sites, like Romance Writers of America and Critters Workshop, have been around since that very first roundup in ’99. Others, like Re:Fiction and Camp NaNoWriMo, are making their debut this year.

Organized into nine alphabetized sections (Creativity, Writing Advice, General Resources, Everything Agents, Publishing/Marketing Resources, Jobs and Markets, Online Writing Communities, Genres/Niches and Just For

Fun), the sites included offer a bevy of resources—most of which are free—to help you achieve your writing goals.

Icons (as seen in the key below) under the site name make it easy to tell the types of resources you can expect from each listing, while those making their inaugural appearance are indicated by black circles around their corresponding numbers. We’ve also brought back our “Insider’s Guides,” featuring Q&As with site founders, to help you navigate some of the most info-rich resources (which you can find online at writersdigest.com/jun-18).

The internet—and our digital lives—have evolved substantially in the past 20 years. At WD, we’re proud to carry on our tradition of helping you make the most of your time, energy and bandwidth—allowing you to become a better writer along the way.

101 AT A GLANCE: SYMBOLS KEY

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ✓ Advice for Writers | 📷 Instagram |
| 📺 Classes/Workshops/Conferences | 💰 Jobs |
| 🏆 Contests | 📍 Markets |
| 👏 Critiques | 🎧 Podcast |
| 📡 e-Newsletters/RSS | 📱 Tumblr |
| 📘 Facebook | 🐦 Twitter |
| ★ For Young Writers | 📺 YouTube |
| 💬 Forums | # First Appearance on Our Annual 101 List |

1-7

CREATIVITY

1. CREATIVE THINKING



creativethinking.net

Here, “creativity expert” Michael Michalko shares creative exercises, thought experiments and explanations of the workings of your brain. Be sure to check out the archives for references to innovative techniques and processes from famous thinkers like Einstein and Darwin.

2. CREATIVITY PORTAL



creativity-portal.com

The countless prompts, how-tos on guided imagery and creative habits, mixed-media masterpieces and more at Creativity Portal have sparked imaginations for more than 18 years. To get your ideas flowing, start with the Imagination Prompt Generator or photos from the Old West Birdcage Theatre.

3. LANGUAGE IS A VIRUS



languageisavirus.com

Next time you’re faced with writer’s block, head to Language is a Virus for a multitude of writing prompts, exercises, text generators and more. The site also features writing techniques and experiments from various avant-garde creatives and writing movements—including surrealist Salvador Dalí, modernist Ezra Pound, asemic writing, dub fiction and more.

4. THE NEW YORKER CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST



contest.newyorker.com

Boost your literary credentials by

submitting your best caption for the stand-alone cartoon to this weekly contest from *The New Yorker*. The top three captions advance to a public vote, and the winner’s will be included in a future issue of the magazine.

BEST OF THE BEST

5. SIX-WORD MEMOIRS



sixwordmemoirs.com

Inspired by the famed six-word story oft attributed to Hemingway—“For sale: baby shoes, never worn”—Six-Word Memoirs challenges you to tell a powerful story at this ultra-concise clip. Add yours to a collection of more than 1 million, including “celebrity sixes” from Lin-Manuel Miranda, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Julianne Moore and others.

6. STORYBIRD



storybird.com

Bring your story or poem to life using the extensive collection of templates and illustrations available on Storybird, and explore the creations from others. Find inspiration by participating in the monthly challenge prompts—and if your submission is chosen, it will be featured on the Storybird blog.

7. WRITING PROMPTS TUMBLR



writingprompts.tumblr.com

Writing Prompts Tumblr houses hundreds of image-based story kick-starters, curated by a ninth-grade English teacher. Search through the 180-prompt collection he uses in his class, hit the Random Prompt Button or start with the site’s latest to instigate a tale.

8-27

WRITING ADVICE

8. 10 MINUTE NOVELISTS



10minutenovelists.com

This site is tailor-made for busy scribes. Founder Katharine Grubb, a stay-at-home mom who wrote *her* first novel in 10-minute spurts, offers practical advice for squeezing in writing time. Unlike many productivity-centric blogs that promote tactics too niche or daunting, the advice on 10 Minute Novelists is realistic, doable and specific to writers’ needs.

9. BANE OF YOUR RESISTANCE



baneofyourresistance.com

Founder and creativity coach Rosanne Bane wants to blight all things holding you back from writing success—be it writer’s block or distractions. Blog posts cover the psychology and neurology of resistance, creative flow, overcoming procrastination and more.

10. BETTER NOVEL PROJECT



betternovelproject.com

Christine Frazier of Better Novel Project deconstructs bestselling fiction series—think Harry Potter, Hunger Games, Twilight—to help you understand the common core elements of popular novels. To keep things fun, she includes an infographic or hand-illustrated doodle with each post.

11. CAREER AUTHORS



careerauthors.com

Career Authors is a collaboration of

five full-time writers committed to helping others achieve the dream of becoming a professional wordsmith. Contributor backgrounds include editing, novel writing, building author platforms and journalism—with tips on every aspect of forging a writing career.

12. DAILY WRITING TIPS



dailywritingtips.com

Writing isn't *just* about telling a good story: Daily Writing Tips provides need-to-know explanations of common grammar mistakes, misused words, punctuation usage and more in a quick and painless way to sharpen your skills across genre and category.

13. DIY MFA



diymfa.com

DIY MFA offers the practical literary tools you would expect from a Master of Fine Arts degree—with the freedom to create a program that fits *your* needs. Founder Gabriela Pereira (author of *DIY MFA* from WD Books) provides articles, classes, a podcast and a regular newsletter to help you “write with focus, read with purpose and build your community.”

14. GRAMMARPHOBIA



grammarphobia.com

Set your English-language fears aside at Grammarphobia. Send in questions about grammar, etymology, usage and more, and experts Stewart Kellerman and Patricia T. O’Conner—the author behind the bestselling grammar book *Woe Is I*—post answers full of helpful insight.

BEST OF THE BEST

15. HELPING WRITERS BECOME AUTHORS



helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com

With assistance from the extensive resources—including a glossary of writing terms, free e-books, articles and a podcast—provided by novelist and acclaimed writing mentor K. M. Weiland, you’ll develop a story structure, scenes, characters and more that will bring your tale to life.

16. RE:FICTION



refiction.com

Offering a creative boost alongside craft advice, Re:Fiction is designed to “find, nurture and reward” writers, with hundreds of articles, interviews, contests and more. Make sure to check out the new series “Resource Reviews,” for commentary on writing resources, and try the story-idea generator to get your creativity flowing.

17. SECRETS OF STORY



www.secretsofstory.com

Screenwriter Matt Bird analyzes the stories of popular and under-rated movies, TV shows and books. The blog is frequently updated and has loads of archived material, with posts on structure, characters, genre conventions and beyond. (And don’t miss the companion title, *The Secrets of Story*, from WD Books.)

18. SEEKERVILLE



seekerville.blogspot.com

Seekerville was founded to chronicle the publication journeys of 15 authors, all of whom eventually

became published. While some of the original “Seekers” have moved on to other projects, new Seekers have stepped in to follow in their stead. Posts on encouragement and craft advice are regularly added to the site’s decade-deep archive.

19. TERRIBLEMINDS



terribleminds.com

Bestselling author, screenwriter and game designer Chuck Wendig shares his expertise on self- and traditional publishing, character-driven storytelling and beyond on a writing blog that’s as entertaining (read: NSFW) as it is educational.

20. WELL-STORIED



well-storied.com

Formerly called “She’s Novel,” this site provides step-by-step guides for developing characters, plotting, pre-writing and more. Check out the Well-Storied podcast for quick audio explorations of craft questions and the writing life.

21. WRITE IT SIDWAYS



writeitsideways.com

Write It Sideways addresses common questions on the craft and business of writing from a non-traditional angle, with articles like “50 Procrastination Techniques for Aspiring Writers” and “How to Fail and Fail Again.”

22. WRITE NONFICTION NOW!



writenonfictionnow.com

Mirroring the community, encouragement and advice offered to fiction writers by NaNoWriMo, Write Nonfiction Now! is the home of Write Nonfiction in November. Find yearlong support via more than a

decade of blog posts and the WNFIN Facebook community from bestselling author, blogger and book coach Nina Amir.

23. WRITE TO DONE



writetodone.com

From creativity exercises to understanding plot structure to becoming a freelancer, this site covers the basics on a range of topics via useful exercises and in-depth blog posts.

24. WRITER UNBOXED



writerunboxed.com

Here, you'll find craft advice from a broad range of authors and industry experts in all genres and stages of success that's sure to help you take your writing to the next level. Join the 5,000-writers-strong WU Facebook group for an active community that can't be beat.

25. WRITERS IN THE STORM



writersinthestormblog.com

The bloggers at Writers in the Storm understand the difficulties all scribes face, from rejection to publishing hurdles to writer's block. To help you weather said storms, they provide advice on publication, setting goals, inspiration, craft and more.

26. WRITING EXCUSES



writingexcuses.com

Home to one of the best writing podcasts available, the Writing Excuses website makes it easy to find the most helpful episodes for your needs via searchable episode tags and listings by guest. The podcast is currently on Season 13, so there's plenty of material on creating characters, world-building, outlining and more awaiting you.

27. WRITING.IE



writing.ie

Find helpful resources and insight on this Irish site covering a variety of genres: general fiction, crime writing, writing for young readers, songwriting and so on. Updated daily, this page holds thousands of articles to inspire you to enter competitions, attend events and just *write*.

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EVERYTHING AGENTS

28. ASSOCIATION OF AUTHORS' REPRESENTATIVES, INC.



aaronline.org

Verify an agent's reputability by searching this database of hundreds of literary and dramatic agents, all of which have met the AAR experience requirements, and adhere to bylaws and a Canon of Ethics.

29. BABBLES FROM SCOTT EAGAN



scotteagan.blogspot.com

Agent Scott Eagan of Greyhaus Literary Agency provides far more than just babbles on his blog. Gain a deeper understanding of agent and publisher processes, plus writing advice and thoughts on the industry from the perspective of an insider with more than 14 years in the business.

30. BOOKENDS LITERARY AGENCY BLOG



bookendsliterary.com

From tips on networking to query quandaries and more, this blog, written by agents at BookEnds, offers

advice galore on turning your book into a business. Make sure to check out the most recent edition of the BookEnds Publishing Dictionary (bit.ly/pubdictionary) for definitions of need-to-know industry terms.

31. HOLLOWAY LITERARY AGENCY BLOG



hollowayliteraryagency.com

Ensure your manuscript is query-ready with the inside scoop from an agent's perspective. With expert advice alongside general tips on craft and productivity, info gleaned from Holloway Literary Agency will help you prepare for publication.

BEST OF THE BEST

32. JANET REID, LITERARY AGENT



jetreidliterary.blogspot.com

Longtime literary agent Janet Reid (a.k.a. "The Query Shark") of New Leaf Agency doles out candid advice to readers' questions on pitching, querying and revising. Don't miss her Query Letter Help section—which includes a query letter checklist, diagnostics and more—before sending out your book pitch.

33. MANUSCRIPT WISH LIST



manuscriptwishlist.com

This site is a must, whether you follow the #MSWL hashtag or not. Find a record of all #MSWL tweets, plus hundreds of agents and editors with detailed bios, query instructions, and searchable "What I'm Seeking" lists, along with a Manuscript Academy podcast (manuscriptacademy.com/ourpodcast) for complementary audio advice.

34. PUB RANTS



nelsonagency.com/pub-rants

At Pub Rants, veteran agent Kristen Nelson of Nelson Literary Agency shares “polite rants about queries, writers and the publishing industry.” These so-called rants, which date back more than 10 years, demystify the conventions of the publishing world.

35. QUERYMANAGER



querymanager.com

QueryManager provides agents with a hassle-free method of responding quickly to authors—so when your manuscript is out on submission, you don’t have to constantly refresh your inbox for the status of your query.

36. QUERYTRACKER



querytracker.net

QueryTracker is a must for researching literary agents and publishers—and for keeping careful records of who and when you’ve queried. You’ll be in good company: More than 2,400 authors have found their agents using QueryTracker.

37. RED SOFA LITERARY



redsofaliterary.com

A staple on our list, the blog at Red Sofa Literary, and The Red Sofa Chats, offer a glimpse into the lives of editors, agents and others, with posts covering the intersections of life and publishing, as well as traditional craft topics and query advice.

38-42

GENERAL RESOURCES

38. BABYNAMES.COM



babynames.com

Filter this extensive list by origin, state or country to make sure the name you seek fits your character’s backstory—or channel J. K. Rowling and search by meaning to add an extra layer of depth to a character’s name. Don’t miss the “Tips for Writers” post on avoiding common character-naming *faux pas*.

BEST OF THE BEST

39. KIRKUS REVIEWS



kirkusreviews.com

The definitive resource for book reviews, author interviews, contests and “Best Of” genre lists, Kirkus Reviews keeps you up-to-speed on what’s happening in the market. For a fee, you can now also get your independent books reviewed, so that your self-published work can be seen on Kirkus, too.

40. REDDIT WRITING SUBREDDIT



reddit.com/r/writing

No writing-related query is too small or too specific on this discussion board, boasting a community of more than 355,000 writers. Whether you’re looking for recommendations on longhand writing pads or trying to fix your novel’s plot holes, you’ll find another writer willing to share some insight.

41. TV TROPES



tvtropes.org

This wiki catalogs and explains the multitude of conventions and devices common throughout various creative works. Though it started with a focus on TV and film, the site now covers story tropes

throughout a variety of genres and media, making it a rabbit hole of useful information.

42. U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE



copyright.gov

Understand your rights as an author and learn how to protect your work. Stay up-to-date on the basics of copyright law, fees and more by getting valuable legal advice straight from the source.

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PUBLISHING/ MARKETING RESOURCES

BEST OF THE BEST

43. ALLi SELF-PUBLISHING ADVICE CENTER



selfpublishingadvice.org

Get to the heart of all things self-publishing at the Alliance of Independent Authors’ Self-Publishing Advice Center—with tips on promotion, rights and contracts, productivity, design and more.

44. CREATE IF WRITING



createifwriting.com

Create If Writing demystifies the promotional and marketing aspects of the writing business. You’ll find breakdowns of Amazon’s book publishing rules, Facebook



BEYOND THE WEB

For a roundup of some of our favorite writing podcasts, check out our editors’ list at writersdigest.com/jun-18.

algorithms and other vital knowledge to help you grow your platform and establish a more effective web presence.

45. THE CREATIVE PENN



thecreativepenn.com

Find insight on self-publishing, marketing, writing and more from bestselling indie author Joanna Penn. In addition to frequent blog posts, Penn shares wisdom through a weekly podcast that's still going strong at more than 350 episodes.

46. JANE FRIEDMAN



janefriedman.com

Speaker and former WD publisher Jane Friedman dishes on everything from publishing trends to query letters to writing advice on her blog—and via the essential industry-trends newsletter “The Hot Sheet,” co-founded with consultant Porter Anderson.

47. PUBLETARIAT



publetariat.com

This site curates articles from around the web on book marketing, promotion, self- and traditional publishing and all the necessary know-how to make your book a powerhouse.

48. PUBLISHING ... AND OTHER FORMS OF INSANITY



publishedtodeath.blogspot.com

Author Erica Verrillo curates calls for submissions, places to earn reviews, lists of publishers accepting unagented manuscripts and more. Pick an agent to query or a market to submit to from her extensive, perpetually updated lists.

49. REEDSY



reedsy.com

Reedsy's free book-editing and typesetting tools will help turn your story into a polished manuscript you'll be proud to publish, while blog posts provide extensive writing and publishing tips. You can also connect with freelance editors, designers, ghostwriters and other professionals offering paid services to authors.

50. WINNING WRITERS



winningwriters.com

Subscribe to the free Winning Writers newsletter for access to an extensive database of free literary contests across genres, updated monthly. While exploring the site, check out Winning Writers' contests, plus a list of resources recommended by site editors.

51-60

JOBS & MARKETS

51. ALL FREELANCE WRITING JOB BOARD



**allfreelancewriting.com/
freelance-writing-jobs**

Here, freelance job postings are updated daily and include pay information. There's also a database of markets that pay writers, and you'll find a robust directory of freelancers that clients can browse by name or specialty (or you can join the writer-for-hire ranks and add your own credentials for a one-time fee of \$24.95).

52. CREATIVE HOTLIST



creativehotlist.com

Search job postings in the publishing industry by skill set (writing, editing, design, creative direction), industry, location or experience level. For easy applying, create a free account to upload your résumé.

53. ED2010



ed2010.com

Founded in 1998 by a former *Glamour* editor who wanted to help rookie editors find their way, Ed2010—while still an excellent resource for “whippersnappers,” with free mentoring, scholarships, college student chapters and more—now caters to a broader crowd, with job listings, résumé makeovers and career advice from magazine-industry pros.

54. FREELANCE WRITING JOBS



freelancewritinggigs.com

Find your dream freelance gig, part-time job or internship on this to-the-minute job board, or through the “Freelance Writing Jobs” bulletin curated Monday through Friday. And with the site's advice on article writing, blogging, grammar, copywriting, business and more at your disposal, it'll be easy to get your writing career up and running.

BEST OF THE BEST

55. FUNDS FOR WRITERS



fundsforwriters.com

This regular on our list offers oodles of advice on markets, grants, awards, querying, agents, writing jobs and much more, from experienced freelancer C. Hope Clark and her stable of contributing experts. Register for her weekly

(free!) newsletter for can't-miss markets and advice delivered to your inbox.

56. JOURNALISM JOBS



journalismjobs.com

Search listings across a broad spectrum of media jobs, from newspapers to publishing, academia and more. Or post a résumé, browse fellowship listings and peruse the career advice blog—it's all there.

57. THE MARKET LIST



marketlist.com

Since 1994, The Market List has been a go-to for writers seeking fiction and nonfiction markets, covering magazines, literary journals, screenwriting resources and beyond. As an added bonus, connect with a vibrant community of writers on the forums.

58. MEDIABISTRO



mediabistro.com

A wealth of (free!) career advice, interview and résumé tips and job listings await you here—a freelancer and media staffer's job-seeking utopia. For a fee, you'll also get access to exclusive content, editorial calendars, "How to Pitch" guides and more, plus discounts on Mediabistro's digital courses and career services (like résumé edits and help crafting elevator pitches).

59. PROBLOGGER



probblogger.com

Grow your own following and revenue with insight gleaned from the extensive blog (of nearly 8,000

posts), hearty podcast (with 200-plus episodes) and robust blogging resource guide. Or find writing jobs across a variety of mediums—copy-writing, design, blogs, marketing, editing, ghostwriting and more—and freelance how-tos via the wide-ranging job board.

60. WHO PAYS WRITERS



whopayswriters.com

Find pay-rate information on hundreds of markets—typically accompanied by insight on assignments and overall impressions—in an easy-to-search format, all documented by freelancers with firsthand experience.

61-70

ONLINE WRITING COMMUNITIES

61. CAMP NANOWRIMO



campnanowrimo.org

Conceived as the "summer camp" version of November's National Novel Writing Month, Camp NaNoWriMo facilitates a virtual writing retreat each April and July to help you reach your writing goals. Bunk with up to 19 other writers in "cabins" to create your personal writing community, and stop using "waiting till November" as an excuse to put off finishing your novel.

62. CRITIQUE CIRCLE



critiquecircle.com

No matter your genre, you'll receive thoughtful, thorough feedback at Critique Circle. This community—3,000-plus active members—thrives

on a point system that requires members to write a critique before even submitting a story (becoming a premium member for \$10/month allows you to skip this step, but you're still required to offer critiques later on). Critiques must be thorough, too: You'll be "graded" by authors on the strength of your feedback.

63. CRITTERS WORKSHOP



critters.org

Share and earn feedback on your works-in-progress from this writing community that's welcomed novices and published authors alike since 1995. The site mandates that every one of its members (numbering in the thousands) submit critiques, ensuring involvement in an active, vibrant community.

64. FICTIONAUT



fictionaut.com

"Part self-selecting magazine, part community network," Fictionaut operates as a sort of literary-journal alternative, allowing writers to upload short stories, poetry and more in hopes of fostering a place where writers and readers can connect through literary endeavors.

65. INTERNET WRITING WORKSHOP



internetwritingworkshop.org

Give and receive feedback on fiction, nonfiction, poetry and scriptwriting via this site's email-hosted critique groups. Joining is easy: Just send an introductory email listing your writing and reading interests, and site moderators will add you to a

workshop group that matches your interests.

BEST OF THE BEST

66. STORYADAY



storyaday.org

This site's month-long challenges to write a short story every day of the week are its hallmark, but the writing prompts, Serious Writer's Accountability Groups, StoryADay podcast, productivity resources and more are equally beneficial.

67. WATTPAD



wattpad.com

Join a community of more than 45 million writers and readers to share your works-in-progress, one chapter at a time. A social platform made for writers, stories gain attention in the community through votes and comments. Plus, for many independent authors, success

on Wattpad has translated into a book deal.

68. THE WRITERS CHAT ROOM



writerschatroom.com

During the biweekly live discussions on The Writers Chat Room, you'll glean helpful advice for every genre and experience level on topics spanning grammar, critiques, query letters and more. Sign up for the newsletter for more helpful advice and to ensure you don't miss any "Celebrity Sundays": live chats with notable authors like Gennita Low and Mary SanGiovanni who share their publishing advice and writing tips.

69. THE WRITING COOPERATIVE



writingcooperative.com

The Writing Cooperative, operated through Medium, helps writers get paid for their work by earning “claps” from site members, then

sending a portion of that member's \$5 monthly fee to you. The website also gathers on Slack for discussions, writing challenges and critiques on the go.

70. THE YOUNG WRITERS SOCIETY



youngwriterssociety.com

Formed to promote creative writing among aspiring authors, this site encourages young writers 13 and up to share their poetry, short stories and novel chapters. For additional space to discuss writing-related topics, check out the Creativity Corner on the forums, or join one of the themed clubs for entry into a regular community.

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GENRES/ NICHES

BEYOND THE 101: THE WRITER'S DIGEST FAMILY OF SITES

WritersDigest.com

WD's hub of free articles, prompts and downloads is filled with career advice, craft tips, competitions and more. Check out the editor blogs for friendly expert advice on writing and publishing, poetry challenges, agent updates and beyond.

WritersDigestUniversity.com

You don't even have to leave home to get one-on-one instruction from expert authors and editors: WDU classes are offered year-round for every genre and experience level.

Tutorials.WritersDigest.com

More than 350 instructional videos

are available to stream immediately, with new videos added weekly. A monthly subscription is \$25, while an annual is \$199.

WritersMarket.com

Along with 9,000-plus market listings updated daily, subscribers receive articles, industry updates, submission trackers and more. Monthly, six-month and annual-paid subscriptions are available.

ScriptMag.com

Script Magazine, set to merge with WD in 2018, offers vital script-writing advice, news and info on spec-scripts, film festivals and more.

CHILDREN'S/YA

71. GO TEEN WRITERS



goteenwriters.blogspot.com

A one-stop shop for young writers looking to get published, this site is chock-full of inspiration, techniques and grammar advice, and the new YouTube channel is dedicated to addressing common writing dilemmas.

72. INKYGIRL



inkygirl.com

Artist and children's book author Debbie Ridpath Ohi provides inspiration for children's authors through both form and content: If her advice and interviews on writing picture books don't inspire

brilliance, the adorable illustrations that accompany them sure will.

73. KIDLIT



kidlit.com

Former literary agent Mary Kole (author of *Writing Irresistible Kidlit* from WD Books) is brimming with tips on writing, querying, publishing and marketing for picture books, chapter books, middle-grade and young adult fiction. And if you can't find what you're looking for, she'll gladly respond to your emailed questions about writing and publishing in the children's market.

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

74. MYTHCREANTS



mythcreants.com

Learn the craft of fantasy and science fiction with world-building tips, analyses of genre works and more. Plus, tune in to the twice-monthly podcast for writing techniques on storytelling in speculative genres.

75. SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY WRITERS OF AMERICA



sfwa.org

The official organization for the science fiction and fantasy community, SFWA provides plenty of free resources—including craft, querying and publishing tips. For published authors, membership (\$70–110; see eligibility requirements online) allows access to a community that includes support for contractual disputes and active discussion forums.

76. UNBOUND WORLDS



unboundworlds.com

At Unbound Worlds, you'll find insights on subgenres of fantasy and science fiction you didn't even know existed. Keep up-to-date on the latest in speculative fiction through interviews, excerpts, lists of books by type (including Japanese horror, food-based fantasy and lunar sci-fi, to name a few) and more.

FREELANCE

77. FREELANCER FAQS



freelancerfaqs.com

Whether you're just starting out or trying to gain marketing traction, the experts in technology, travel, PR, marketing and more at Freelancer FAQs have the answers to all of your freelancing questions and quandaries. Subscribe to the newsletter for free access to their über-helpful guide, "11 Rookie Mistakes You're Making on Your Writer Website."

78. FREELANCERS UNION



freelancersunion.org

With more than 350,000 members, Freelancers Union is a must-join organization for policy advocacy, insurance benefits, community and beyond. Plus, membership is free for all independent workers: freelancers, temps, self-employed, etc. Check out Hives, the site's new social platform, to ask questions or share tips with other writers-for-hire.

79. LEAVING WORK BEHIND



leavingworkbehind.com

Let this site be your go-to when you're finally ready to throw in the towel at your day job and become a full-time freelancer. Founder Tom Ewer shares his experience as a corporate drudge-turned-professional blogger, and uncovers the tools that make freelancing not only possible, but profitable.

80. THE FREELANCER BY CONTENTLY



contently.net

Produced by software company Contently, The Freelancer provides a rates database and articles on trends, jobs, contracts and more to help independent professionals navigate the industry. Create a free portfolio to showcase your work to potential Contently clients.

HISTORY

81. A WRITER OF HISTORY



awriterofhistory.com

Historical fiction author M. K. Tod covers reading, writing and researching the genre: You'll find author interviews, excerpts from historical letters and more, interspersed with Tod's advice on constructing historical worlds.

HORROR

82. DARK MARKETS



darkmarkets.com

Discover listings for horror anthologies, book publishers, contests and more at this robust database curated specially for horror writers. Subscribe to the newsletter for weekly updates on can't-miss markets.

horror.org

MYSTERY/CRIME

elizabethspanncraig.com

jungleredwriters.com

mysterywriters.org

POETRY

buttonpoetry.com

poets.org

ROMANCE

romanceuniversity.org

rwa.org

SCRIPTWRITING

gointothestory.blcklst.com

SPIRITUAL

almostanauthor.com

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more from a Christian perspective to take you from casual writer to successful, published author.

93. THE STEVE LAUBE AGENCY



stevelaube.com/blog

For nearly a decade, the staff blog at The Steve Laube Agency has provided practical advice on querying, submitting and publishing in the Christian market.

THRILLER

94. THE BIG THRILL



thebigthrill.org

The digital home of the official magazine of the International Thriller Writers organization, here you'll find interviews and contributions from bestsellers like Mary Higgins Clark, Heather Graham, Robert Crais and more—plus writing advice and up-to-date news on the genre. To subscribe (for free!), visit thrillerwriters.org, official home of ITW.

95. THE KILL ZONE



killzoneblog.com

Turn to The Kill Zone for a free, *public* first-page manuscript critique ... or, if that's too daunting, learn from the many critiques already available to review. Plus, check out daily advice on craft, book promotion and trends from 11 top thriller and mystery writers—including Kathryn Lilley, John

Gilstrap and James Scott Bell (author of *Just Write* from WD Books).

WOMEN'S FICTION

96. WOMEN'S FICTION WRITERS



womensfictionwriters.com

Novelist, book coach and veteran women's fiction writer Amy Sue Nathan shares thoughtful insight on writing in the genre, along with general advice on craft and writer interviews, encouragement and community.

97-101

JUST FOR FUN

97. 4THEWORDS



4thewords.com

Game-ify your writing experience: Create an avatar, set the word count for your mission and defeat monsters through writing sprints. This site is \$4/month, but offers a 30-day free trial—perfect for determining whether your passion for gaming can motivate you on your writing journey.

BEST OF THE BEST

98. Highbrow



gohighbrow.com

Get smart: Highbrow delivers bite-size tutorials you can devour in just five minutes a day, all sent directly to your email inbox. Free 10-day courses include “Rare and Unusual Weather Phenomena,” “SEO Fundamentals,” and “History of Western Epidemics.” For just

\$4 a month you can get access to dozens more.

99. INCIDENTAL COMICS



incidentalcomics.com

At Incidental Comics, writer, illustrator and orthodontist Grant Snider—whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review* and elsewhere—shares humorous insights on the creative process via comics on topics such as “Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*” and “What to Put in Your Notebook.”

100. THE LONELINESS PROJECT



thelonelinessproject.org

Empathy is key for writers. The Loneliness Project’s goal—to cultivate compassion through weekly stories of loneliness—appreciates that innate need. Submit your own story, or simply be inspired by the works of others.

101. PAPERBACK SWAP



paperbackswap.com

One person’s trash is another’s treasure: Find a home for your unwanted books by listing them on Paperback Swap. When someone requests one of your books, you’ll earn points you can then use to request a book you *do* want from more than 1.7 million available titles. **WD**

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BONUS INSIDER’S GUIDES

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