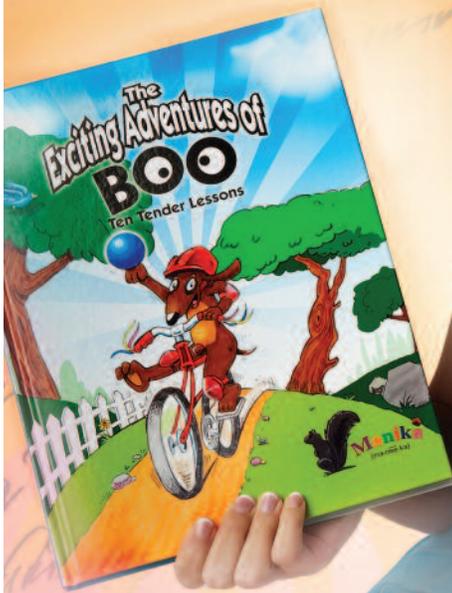


THE
SECRETS of Writing
a Children's Book



1.2.3...
publish
me!

by
manika



1.2.3...Publish Me!

by

Manika
(ma-nēē-ka)



1.2.3...Publish Me!

Published by Manika Publishing Company

2435 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy.

Henderson, Nevada 89052

Copyright © Manika 2010

Illustrations copyright © 2010 Manika Publishing Company

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
CATALOGING-IN-PUBLICATION DATA
Manika

1.2.3...Publish Me!
ISBN # 978-0-9985976-0-7

All rights reserved

This book (including all electronic and e-book versions)
is sold/given away subject to the conditions that it
shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold,
hired out, emailed, posted, given away, digitally shared or
otherwise circulated in any form without publisher's prior consent.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	page 5
How to come up with Great Ideas, Lessons and Characters.....	page 9
The Three Secret Editing Levels.....	page 10
Editing Level 1 Examples.....	page 14
Editing Level 2 Examples.....	page 64
Editing Level 3 Examples.....	page 142
Children’s Book Publishers List.....	page 183

1.2.3...Publish Me!

Have you ever dreamed of writing a book? Do you have a story to tell or just a dream of being a published author? But where do you begin? How do you write a book? It is too daunting a task to take on writing a thousand-page novel as your first book. The perfect place to begin is with a children's book. And no, you do not need any previous writing experience or need to be creative to write a book. Your time is now. I'm going to show you step by step how to write a children's book so good that publishers can't say no. I will reveal to you my three secret editing levels. These secrets make writing a children's book so easy that virtually anyone ten years of age and older can become a published author.

I grew up in a family of writers. My dad, uncle, grandfather and grandmother are all professional writers. Throughout the years I have listened to and absorbed their writing secrets. By age eleven I began writing my first book. By age fifteen (and twenty-something drafts later) my first book *The Exciting Adventures of BOO* was published. While writing this book, I went through a four-year learning curve in which I discovered the secrets of writing a successful children's book. I discovered the three breakthrough editing levels that can raise a manuscript to the quality that publishers look for. Had I known these secrets prior to writing my children's book, it would have taken me only three drafts versus twenty. With these secrets, you can write a book in just three simple drafts that will catch the eyes of publishers. I reveal these secrets in this book.





Hi, I'm Manika.
At 15 years old, my first book
The Exciting Adventures of BOO
was published.

I grew up in a family of professional writers and publishers. So I am, in a sense, a “natural-born” writer. All my life I listened to writers and publishers talk about their projects. I heard and absorbed their secrets. At 11-years old, I approached my father and told him I wanted to write a book. He told me that if I wanted to write a book, I would have to spend years learning how to write it.

For the next four years, I wrote, edited, rewrote, re-edited my ten-story, 144-page book. My dad would look at my drafts and send me back to work — for four years. Finally, one day, he read my latest draft and said, “This is something so good that your grandchildren will someday read it. Congratulations, you have written a children’s classic!”

Not long after I completed my first book, I had a eureka moment. I looked at my high stack of heavily edited drafts and realized how I could have reduced the entire process to three easy steps. That insight launched my second book now in your hands: *1.2.3...Publish Me!*

Meanwhile, the success of my first book had taken off. My father published the book and almost immediately, the first printing of 8,000 copies sold out — at \$29.99 each!

That was when one of today’s most successful authors — a #1 New York Times best-selling author with close to 50 million copies sold of his different books — contacted me. He shot two infomercials with me on my two books...and the rest is history.

I know I had an unbeatable advantage being born into a family of professional writers. But my advantage is YOUR advantage. I have taken all that I learned from them during my journey to becoming a published author, and synthesized all their knowledge and my own learning curve into this easy three-step system that will turn 12-year-old kids, 32-year-old moms and dads, 62-year-old grandparents into published authors.

You do NOT need to be creative

You do not need to be creative or come from a “professional” writer’s background to write a book. Anyone and everyone can write a children’s book with my proven step-by-step system. Some of the best-selling books of all time were written by “non-professional” writers. For example, Joanne Murray — better known by her pen name J.K. Rowling — was just a single mom surviving on welfare when she decided to create her famous *Harry Potter* series. J.K. Rowling’s *Harry Potter* series has sold nearly 500 million copies in 68 languages, and she is now worth a billion dollars. Rob Stevens was an airplane pilot who, in his spare time, wrote the children’s book *The Mapmaker’s Monsters* which became a giant best-seller. Jeff Kinney one day just started scribbling ideas in a notepad. From this he created *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series which has sold over 160 million copies. Stephenie Meyer was a stay-at-home-mom with no professional writing experience whatsoever when she began writing *Twilight*. Her *Twilight* series have sold over 100 million copies and her annual income is an estimated \$50 million. You do not need to be creative or a “professional” to write a successful children’s book. You just need to know the secrets, which I will reveal to you.

Benefits of being an author (money, fame, focus, goal, drive, confidence, fulfillment)

Being a published author can bring many benefits to any adult or child. When I was eleven, I first began writing my book, which gave me a focus, goal and drive in life. I became excited to write. Writing kept me focused in school and set me on a goal-driven path in life. Writing also boosted my confidence.

Being a published author is a great way to make money. Writing will open up many doors of opportunities in life. It can bring you fame. When I was 15 and my children’s book was published, I was interviewed and featured on all the local television news stations, radio stations, newspapers and two national infomercials. I was invited to do book signings, to tour the school district to speak and read to the children, to talk at career fairs, to make public appearances, to give writing workshops, and to read to cancer patients. I also became the teenage spokesperson for the Nevada ASPCA and was invited to many charity events. The mayor invited me to his office and awarded me the Letter of Commendation...all this when I was a freshman in high school! Being a published author brings you a great feeling of accomplishment. Holding your finished product, reading it to children, getting back those amazing testimonials, and feeling that sense of accomplishment knowing that you created a value for others that is benefiting and inspiring children’s lives...that is an incredible feeling.



See below a few of the testimonials I have received from readers of my children's book *The Exciting Adventures of BOO*:

Manika,

You are indeed a very accomplished young-lady and your beautiful book astounds me. I received your book in the mail today and had it read in under an hour — admiring every painstaking detail, in all of its simplicity of the ten intended tender messages...charming, an outright work of art, pure perfection. Congratulations!

— Lynda Froiland

The lessons Boo teaches children are of the most important values a child can embrace. They are a moral compass from which children can guide and direct their lives toward happiness, inner peace, and love.

— Brad Hutchinson

I recently purchased *The Exciting Adventures of BOO* for my 9-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter. My daughter loved it so much that she proudly brought it to school the day after we got it. My son stayed up until midnight last night to read it, which he has never done before for any book and not even for his Yu-Gi-Oh cards! He was laughing this morning about the mischief Boo causes.

We couldn't be happier and will enjoy the book in our family and treasure it as an heirloom.

Can't wait for more!

— Jerry Penna

Congratulations on your book! As the author of 34 books, including a dozen children's titles, I know what it takes to create a masterpiece like the one you have written. Keep up the good work!

— John Riddle

I purchased this book *The Exciting Adventures of BOO* for my three-year-old son Daniel. I appreciate each valuable story as I know Daniel is learning from them. This book was extremely well written. It reminds me of a sweet piece of fudge, condensed with treats to be chewed on and digested, piece by piece over time. Daniel usually never wants to stop reading. Often times as I walk past his room, I see

Daniel sitting on the floor with the book open reading aloud his rendition of the stories. On a rainy day when Daniel can't go out to play, I have witnessed him as he reaches for his crayons and grabs his book — then he's off to drawing and coloring his own adventure. I highly recommend this book *The Exciting Adventures of BOO* to any one with young children, toddlers and babies. This leaves me with just one question. When is the next book coming out?

Sincerely,

Jacqui

"I love your book!" my almost 6-year-old son said about Boo's adventures last night after reading before bed. We have been reading these stories since he was about 3-years-old. Last night he told me, "This book is very helpful. Every kid should have it. It teaches stuff like, telling the truth, taking care of things the right way and paying attention. And to never give up!"

Thanks for the adventures!

— Rose and Li

Why my book is different

If anyone can write a children's book of publishable quality, then why do thousands of manuscripts get thrown into the rejection pile by publishers every day? That happens because the writers of those manuscripts do not know the secrets that every "professional" published author does know. For example, there is a mistake that every first-time writer makes. They write in a certain style that every publisher hates. In less than one page of reading the manuscript, a publisher will easily spot this mistake and throw the manuscript into the rejection pile. In Editing Level 1, I show you how to eliminate this mistake. In Editing Level 2, I show you the secret of how to write from the characters' perspectives, and in Editing Level 3, I show you the secret of how to write for your readers. The end result? The child reading your book will merge with the characters. Rather than just reading the story, the child will *live and feel* the story...and that is what every publisher is looking for.

How to come up with great ideas and lessons

All children's books are really self-improvement books for kids. They teach lessons to children. Children are constantly seeking to improve themselves — whether at school, with friends, at sports, or in extracurricular activities. In children's eyes, their everyday problems and challenges — no matter how small these challenges might be — are just as important to them as life's biggest problems and challenges are to us. Once you realize a children's book is really a self-improvement book for kids, coming up with ideas is easy. Ideas for your children's book originate from lessons in life. Think of lessons that your children-readers would benefit from...lessons that you have learned growing up...lessons that you have taught your own child or grandchild. Those lessons and ideas are all around you...they surround you in everyday life. For example, consider that time you went with your family to the zoo, and you watched the caretakers feed the animals. You inherently learned about responsibility. This could make a great story in itself. When writing my children's book *The Exciting Adventures of BOO*, I wrote a list of all the lessons I could think of that I had learned throughout my childhood. There were over a hundred and fifty of those lessons. Out of that list, I chose the ten lessons that I thought were most important for children ages two to twelve and created the ten stories of *The Exciting Adventures of BOO*.

Once you have your lesson(s), then the story-line ideas, setting and details can come from anything. You can make these anything, from a story and setting very similar to your own childhood experiences to something totally bizarre, silly and dreamy...as long as the story teaches the child a relevant life-lesson. Once you know that a children's book is really a self-improvement book for kids, you can do anything with the setting and details of your story.

How to come up with characters

When creating characters for your children's book, you want to be sure that the main characters — the characters through which the lesson is learned — are relatable to your readers. The main character needs to be someone whom the child can imagine as herself...someone who will allow the child's mind and the character's mind to merge together as one. This does not mean the characters have to be exactly like your readers, they just have to be relatable. (For example, you would NOT want to make the main character a 65-year-old card dealer...it would be difficult for a six-year-old child to relate to him.) In my children's book, the main character is a dog named Boo. Boo is a young puppy who lives at home with his mom and dad, goes to school, plays sports and goes through similar everyday challenges that my readers do. As long as your story teaches a lesson to your child-readers and the main characters are relatable to those readers, then your characters can be anyone or anything...from people to animals, to even bizarre or inanimate objects.

TOP SECRET



1.2.3...Publish Me!

Editing Level 1 — Getting rid of narrative summary and awkward/boring writing

Editing Level 2 — Getting into the minds and emotions of the characters

Editing Level 3 — Getting into the mind and emotions of the reader

In this guide I will explain and give examples of these three breakthrough, secret levels of editing that *will* get *your* children's book up to level of being published faster than you could ever imagine. It's as easy as *1.2.3...Publish Me!*

Editing Level 1 — Getting rid of narrative summary and awkward/boring writing

After you have chosen the lesson, characters and setting, the first step is to write out your story. Just write out the story. Do not worry about how well it is written, making mistakes, etc...just get your story down on paper. This will be the first draft. After you have written out your story, the editing begins.

After your first draft — after *any writer's* first draft — a lot of awkward and boring writing will sit on the page. Most of this boring writing will be a result of narrative summary. Narrative summary is where the narrator, or person of which the point of view of the story is coming from, describes or summarizes to the reader what is happening rather than having the characters themselves *show* you through natural actions and dialogue (dialogue is the speaking parts). All children's book publishers hate this style of writing because it makes the story boring...and boring children's books do not sell. Publishers immediately identify this mistake of writing in the style of narrative summary that nearly every first-time "non-professional" writer makes. Not so much as *one page* into the book and the potential publisher will likely throw the manuscript into the rejection pile. The publishers are looking for exciting, not boring, writing. In Editing Level 1, in order to get rid of boring writing, you must go through your book focusing on getting rid of narrative summary in ALL possible situations and replacing it with action and dialogue of the characters. Narrative summary takes away from the realness of the scene and thus takes away from the value of your book. Excessive narrative summary will make your story and scenes non-believable to the reader, resulting in NO emotional attachment. Bottom line is: narrative summary makes a book BORING! You must get rid of narrative summary. By doing this, most of the boring writing will disappear. You will change unnatural and awkward expressions into natural and smooth expressions, actions and dialogue. This will make your writing more fluent, more pleasant and easier to read, and best of all, more exciting!

After completing Editing Level 1 (getting rid of narrative summary and awkward/boring writing), your book should be fluent, easy to read and filled with action, dialogue, and excitement. Your book should have only limited pockets of narrative summary (some rare occasions where it is needed) and lots of natural actions and dialogue throughout.

Go to page 14 to see examples from drafts of my book *The Exciting Adventures of BOO* that will explain and show you how to carry out Editing Level 1.

Editing Level 2 — Getting into the minds and emotions of the characters

With the completion of Editing Level 1, you have your second draft.

Your second draft, *any writer's* second draft, will contain a fair amount of text that is written *NOT* in the way the characters would behave, think, or speak. So, now you have to go through your book, getting into the characters...into their minds and emotions in order to make the scenes more real. In Editing Level 1 you changed most of the narrative summary into actions, dialogue and thoughts of the characters; now you have to make sure that those newly added speaking parts, actions and thoughts are written in the way the characters would naturally behave, think or speak. In order to do this, you should perceive the scene as if you were the character and ask yourself, "Is this what my natural actions and dialogue would be under the given situations?" The process is somewhat like acting. Act as your characters would...pull out their natural dialogue, actions and thoughts. Getting into the minds and emotions of the characters really brings the scene to life. A technique that helps is to visualize the scene as if it were a movie playing out in your mind's eye. That way you can perceive if the dialogue, action or emotional expression fit naturally and realistically.

Go to page 64 to see examples from drafts of my book *The Exciting Adventures of BOO* that will explain and show you how to carry out Editing Level 2.

Editing Level 3 — Getting into the mind and emotions of the reader

With the completion of Editing Level 2, you have your third draft.

Now you have completed the first two levels of editing and are ready for the critically important Editing Level 3. This is when you have to get into the mind, emotions and feelings of THE READER. First you must determine who the reader is for your children's book...what age group of children, what demographic? For my children's book, the reader is a very general demographic that spans from toddlers being read to up to twelve-year olds. You have to understand HOW the reader is perceiving the story and lesson. Only then can your reader connect with your characters. Only then can the reader's and characters' minds merge into one. You have to get into the mind of the reader to, in turn, get your reader into the story and into the minds of the characters. That way the reader goes through the adventure, struggle, suspense and victory at the end. The result will be what every publisher is looking for: your reader will not just read the story, rather your reader will *live* the story. Merging with the characters, the reader will find your book emotionally engaging, exciting, and it will leave a lasting impression. Because your reader *lives* the story rather than just reading it, the lesson learned will be impactful and unforgettable to the reader...and to the publisher!

When you go into Editing Level 3, you need to clear your mind of everything that went into writing and editing your book up to that point. This is hard to do because you have put so much thought and effort into your book. But, you need a clean slate and you need to clear your mind of all the logic that went behind the book you created. You have to step back and re-approach your work as though you are reading it for the first time. Indeed, now you are reading it as though you are your customer, reading it for the very first time. I suggest not looking at or thinking about your book for two weeks before you begin Editing Level 3.

To purchase The Deep Dive Into Manika's & Mark Hamilton's Best-Seller Secrets And Beyond
* Click Here *