

## How You (or Your Child) Can Be a Published Author

By author Carol Topp, CPA

### Teenage Writers



Mary Shelley,  
*Frankenstein*



Christopher  
Paolini, *Eragon*



Alex and Brett Harris,  
*Do Hard Things*



Anne Frank, *The  
Diary of Anne Frank*



Rachel Coker,  
*Interrupted*

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### Types of Publishing

- ▶ Traditional
  - Small press
  - Large houses
- ▶ Self-Publishing/Indie Publishing
  - Hand holding (Aventine)
  - Self publishing (CreateSpace)
  - Print on Demand (Lightening Source)

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### Traditional Publishing

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Reputation</li> <li>▶ Prestige</li> <li>▶ Editor, cover design, interior formatting, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Must submit a book proposal, query</li> <li>▶ Still must do marketing</li> <li>▶ Their schedule</li> <li>▶ Rejection</li> <li>▶ May need an agent first</li> </ul>

**Tips:** Use an agent. Go to writers conferences. Be patient. Good choice if you have a wide audience.

### Self Publishing

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ You are in control</li> <li>▶ No rejections</li> <li>▶ Better profits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Investment</li> <li>▶ Marketing</li> <li>▶ All on you</li> </ul>

**Tips:** Hire a publicist. Read a lot about SP. Good for a niche market that you know well.

### How to Get Started

- ▶ Platform
  - Blog
  - Facebook, Social Media
  - Hang out where your readers hang out
- ▶ Articles
- ▶ Contests
- ▶ E Books



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## Blog

- ▶ Usually under 400 words per post
- ▶ Wordpress blends website and blog
- ▶ Good practice in writing
- ▶ Blog to book
  - ThePioneerWoman.com



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## Articles

- ▶ Typically 700–1000 words
- ▶ Read the magazine first
- ▶ Query first
- ▶ Get editors and proof readers (your potential audience)
- ▶ EZineArticles.com tutorials



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## Books

- Print on Demand (paperback)
  - CreateSpace.com
  - Lulu.com
- Electronic books
  - pdf via Clickbank
  - epub formats via Smashwords
  - Kindle Direct Publishing



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## How a Parent Can Help

- ▶ Find a mentor/editor/agent
- ▶ Network and advertise
- ▶ Coach: encourage, set goals
- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Legal representative
- ▶ Money management



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## Cautions

- ▶ Own your ISBN
- ▶ You must do marketing
- ▶ Minors cannot enter into a binding contract
  - Ceatespace will not issue a check to a minor

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## Resources

- **JaneFriedman.com** blog category: Getting Published
- Writers Market, Christian Writers Market
- **GoodReads** group Writers Who Are Children (42% write fantasy)
- Dan Poynter's *Self-Publishing Manual*
- *Micro Business for Teens*



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## Resources



- Information in a Nutshell
  - *Writing and Publishing*
  - *Business Tips and Taxes for Writers*
- *Reach for the Stars: Young Authors Fiction Workbook*

Available from **MediaAngels.com**