

10 Quick Tips for Writing a Middle-Grade Novel

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[How to Write a Middle-Grade Novel](#)

1. Keep your content age-appropriate (your target audience is between 8 to 12 years old).
2. Narrow in on whether you're writing for younger or older middle graders. There's a huge difference between what an 8-year-old knows and what a 12-year-old knows.
3. Choose a protagonist that your reader can relate to.
4. Spend time with tweens so that you understand their voice and the way that they think.
5. Keep your novel between 30,000 to 50,000 words.
6. Don't beat the reader over the head with a moral lesson at the end. Let them be smart enough to figure it out through your storytelling.
7. Make your protagonist either the same age or slightly older than the target reader.
8. Opt for shorter sentences and shorter chapters. Remember that your reader likely has a short attention span.
9. Minimize adult interaction. The story should be completely focused on your tween protagonist.
10. Read as many middle-grade novels as you can to understand what readers may expect from your novel.