

10 REAL BOOK PROJECTS YOU CAN LAND AS A NEW AUTHOR (NO AGENT NEEDED!)

By Aubre Andrus, award-winning author of 50+ children's books published by Scholastic, American Girl, Disney, and more.

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WORK FOR HIRE

10 REAL BOOK PROJECTS



Most aspiring children's authors believe there's only one path to publishing: spend years polishing a manuscript, query dozens of agents, and then wait (and wait... and wait).

But here's the truth: editors at major publishing houses are **actively looking for writers**—even brand-new authors—to take on book projects. And you don't need an agent to get these opportunities.

I've published more than 50 children's books with Scholastic, Disney, National Geographic Kids, and American Girl—**all without an agent**. In this guide, I'll show you 10 real types of book projects that you could land *this year*.

This is just a peek into the world of work-for-hire publishing. If you want the step-by-step roadmap, I teach it inside my course, **Children's Author Action Plan**.

1. *Nonfiction Based on Well-Known Characters*

Publishers often need activity books or spin-off nonfiction titles based on popular characters (from TV shows, movies, toys, or games). They hire freelance authors to write them. They can be bigger projects, like a *Hocus Pocus Book of Spells*, which hit the NYTimes bestseller list! Or can be smaller like coloring and activity books for popular series like Bluey.

2. *Educational Nonfiction*

From volcanoes to video games, nonfiction books for kids that tie closely to curriculum are always in demand—and publishers hire writers who can research and explain topics clearly. Educational publishers specialize in this.

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3. *Biographies for Kids*

Short, accessible biographies (like *Who Was/Who Is?*) are huge sellers—and many are written by freelance authors. “Narrative nonfiction” is a great skill to develop as a writer! Many different authors may contribute to one series.

4. *“Book + Stuff”*

You’ve certainly seen popular craft and activity books that come with supplies—these are often assigned projects where publishers hire authors to create the content. These are often sold at book fairs, craft stores, and more. Think Klutz books, craft kits at the Scholastic book Fair, etc.

5. *Early Readers*

Those short, leveled readers for beginning readers? Publishers hire freelancers to write many of them especially when assistant editors are too busy to write the book themselves! There are opportunities in both fiction and nonfiction in this format—as well as licensed characters.

6. *Fiction Based on Well-Known Characters*

Short stories, “young reader” novel-length retellings, early readers, and spin-off adventures or ‘reimaginings’ about movies and TV shows (like *Frozen* or *Star Wars*) are almost always written by hired authors, not the original creators. Ex: any “5-minute” bedtime series.

7. *Fiction Series Continuations (aka ghostwriting!)*

Once a fiction chapter book series is successful, publishers often bring in additional authors to keep it going. (Later titles for *The Baby-Sitters Club* and *Sweet Valley High* were written this way!) Publishers have always relied on talented freelancers to bring beloved characters to life.

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8. *Browsable Nonfiction Books*

Fact-based books (on evergreen topics like dinosaurs or space or American history) or almanac-type books are often written by freelance authors. Think National Geographic Kids or Scholastic.

9. *How-To and DIY Titles for Kids*

From cooking to coding to making friendship bracelets, publishers commission instructional books written at a child's level. Writing clear and concise constructions—that work!—is a marketable skill for any writer.

10. *Novelty, Gift, or Specialty Books*

Joke books, quiz books, trivia books, journals, and more—publishers regularly hire authors for these high-volume formats. They may be seasonally-themed, celebrity-focused, or based on another niche.

If this list excited you, imagine having the exact system that I use to connect with editors, pitch yourself, and land these kinds of projects. That's what I teach inside the **Children's Author Action Plan**.

Ready to Become a Children's Author? ✨

Stop waiting years for an agent. Start publishing books this year. Inside Children's Author Action Plan, you'll learn:

- How to pitch yourself directly to editors
- What these 10 types of projects typically pay
- Templates, scripts, and worksheets to land your first assignment
- How to leverage work-for-hire into your long-term author career



👉 **Watch my free training now: [CLICK HERE](#)**