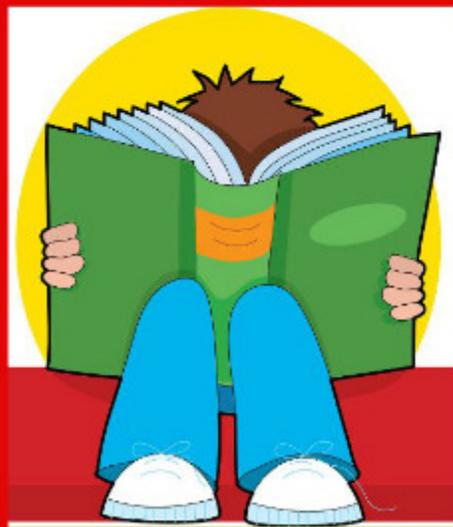


10 TIPS TO HIRING A CHILDREN'S GHOSTWRITER



Karen Cioffi, Children's Writer

10 Tips to Hiring a Children's Ghostwriter

© 2016 Karen Cioffi

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com>

You know the deal. This content is copyrighted and you cannot use it in any form or manner without the author's permission.

10 Tips to Hiring a Children's Ghostwriter

Before I get into the tips to working with a ghostwriter, let me explain what a ghostwriter is. A ghostwriter is simple a 'writer for hire who' will write your children's book, article, website content, or other type of content you need to create your book and market your book.

S/he'll take your idea, your notes, your outline, or your draft and turn it into a publishable story. A story that you'll be proud to put your name on. And, if she knows the ropes, she'll give you advice on what to do after it's written.

Okay, now that that's out of the way, let's get to the 10 tips to working with one.

1. Research ghostwriters before jumping on board with one.

Do a Google search for 'children's ghostwriter' and see how s/he ranks in the search engines. Keep in mind though that this isn't an absolute indication of writing skills or ability, but it will mean the writer puts effort into her website and the search engines take note of that.

2. Visit the website of the person you're interested in working with.

How does it look? Does the site quickly convey that it's about writing for children? Is it neat and easy to navigate (get from page to page)?

A couple of other things to check for on the website is whether or not it's current. Check the blog and see if it's posted to on a regular basis.

Check to see if there's helpful information on the site.

You'll also want to check out the testimonials page. Are there clients who are recommending and/or praising the ghostwriter?

The website is important. I've had clients base their decision to hire me just by visiting my website.

3. What about qualifications?

Does the writer's About Page let you know that she's qualified?

Is she a working writer in the genre you're interested in?

Look at the groups she's associated with or has memberships to. Look at any other distinguishable events or awards.

4. Make sure the ghostwriter is accessible.

When you're on the writer's website, make sure there is an email address and phone number, so you can easily communicate.

5. Does she offer a free consultation?

Some people want that personalized experience – not just an email. I've had clients who simply wanted to hear my voice to make sure it was a real person they were dealing with. I've even had a couple who wanted a Skype consultation. But, aside from this, if you like, ask for a free consultation to discuss your project.

Most ghostwriters will be happy to talk with you about your project. Just please keep in mind that they may keep it short, maybe 15 minutes. So, have your questions and notes ready before the phone call.

6. Not a talker? Then contact the writer by email.

Send the ghostwriter a brief, but clear email on what you'd like and how she can help you.

7. The NDA (nondisclosure agreement).

The NDA is simply a confidentiality agreement. It protects your idea. The writer states that she will not use your idea or content shared for any purpose.

If you're dealing with a reputable ghostwriter this isn't really necessary, but for peace-of-mind, ask for one if it would make you feel more comfortable.

Regarding my clients, I'd say half want one and the other half could care less.

8. The Freelance Writing Agreement.

Most freelance writers, if not all, have a standard freelance writing agreement for their clients. It is tweaked for each individual project for those particulars, but the basic information is the same.

The agreement may include:

- Terms: What the client wants done and what the writer will do.
- The relationship of the parties.
- The time frame for the completion of the project.
- Compensation.
- An NDA.
- Termination information.

9. Does the ghostwriter offer payment options?

This is important. Most writers will offer payment options and scheduling.

For example: For picture books, I have a three-payment schedule. For chapter books and middle-grade, the number of payments depends on the length of the book and time frame involved.

10. Is the ghostwriter easy to work with?

You may not be able to determine if a ghostwriter is easy to work with until you start working with one. But, often the testimonials will give you an indication of how s/he works.

But, even before you hire one, you can have some indication by:

- Did s/he answer all your questions?
- Did s/he get back to you promptly?
- Is s/he friendly and approachable?
- Does s/he sound knowledgeable?

Sometimes, just speaking with someone can let you know if she is the ghostwriter you'd like to work with.

Wait, there's more . . .

11. Yep – a bonus tip.

Find out who'll actually be writing your book. Does the site farm out their writing projects or use subcontractors? Is it a staff of writers? This is not to say the latter is bad, but it's good to know who you'll be working with.

So, there you have it, 10 11 tips to getting started with a children's ghostwriter. I hope it's helpful in choosing one that you'll feel comfortable with.

If you're thinking of hiring a children's ghostwriter and have questions or would like to schedule a free 15 minute consultation to discuss your project, give me a call at **347-834-6700**.

Or, shoot me an email at: kcioffiventrice@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bonus Information

Had a Children's Book Ghostwritten? Now What?

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2016/03/27/had-a-childrens-book-ghostwritten-now-what/>

Writing Fiction and Writing Nonfiction – Similarities and Differences

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2016/02/21/writing-fiction-and-writing-nonfiction-similarities-and-differences/>

Writing Children's Books – Genre Differences

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2013/07/21/writing-childrens-books-genre-differences/>

Writing a Fiction Story – Walking Through Walls Backstory

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/01/21/writing-a-fiction-story-walking-through-walls-backstory/>

Learning to Write for Children – It's More Than Just ABC

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/01/22/learning-to-write-for-children-its-more-than-just-abc/>

10 Rules for Writing Children's Stories

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/02/21/10-rules-for-writing-childrens-stories/>

Character Sheets – Adding Dimension to Your Protagonist

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/02/22/character-sheets-adding-dimension-to-your-protagonist/>

Become an Author – 5 Basic Rules

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/08/24/become-an-author-5-basic-rules/>

Being a Writer – Learn the Craft of Writing

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/08/24/being-a-writer-learn-the-craft-of-writing/>

Critiques are Essential for Writers

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/08/23/critiques-are-essential-for-writers/>

Finding Children's Story Ideas

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com/2015/08/17/finding-childrens-story-ideas/>

Let's Keep in Touch

Writing for Children with Karen Cioffi

<http://karencioffiwritingforchildren.com>

Social Networks:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/writingforchildrenwithkarencioffi/>

GooglePlus: <https://plus.google.com/107054879622971281466/posts>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/karencioffi/>

*Remember,
Nothing Ventured,
Nothing Gained!*