

Book Category Breakdown

BOARD BOOKS

- Age: 0 - 3
- Word Count: None – 100
- Lullabies/basic concepts (usually little to no plot)

PICTURE BOOKS

- Age: 3 - 8
- Word Count: 250 – 1,000
- “Sweet spot” is 500 words
- MC is in pre-school or kindergarten (or is an animal)
- Usually told in 3rd person
- Simple plot

EARLY READER BOOKS

- Ages 5 - 9
- Word Count: 1,500 – 2,000
- Plot is simpler than PB
- Only use dialogue and action (NO DESCRIPTION)

CHAPTER BOOKS

- Age: 6 – 9 or 7 - 10
- Word Count: 8,500 – 12,000 (can go up to 20,000 for older readers)
- Still a strong focus on dialogue and action
- Faster paced than MG or YA

MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS

- Age: 8 - 12
- Word Count: 25,000 – 50,000 (sweet spot for many is 35,000)
- MC is 2-4 years *older* than youngest intended reader
- Slower paced to make room for emotion and mystery

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

- Age: 12 or 14 and up
- Word Count: 50,000 - 75,000
- MC is usually 16-18 years old
- Dark, gritty views of the world, but can also be humorous
- Sadly, in the general market there’s usually lots of profanity, sex, and violence