

# Getting Published 101



**ANGIE SMIBERT**  
**HOLLINSUMMER 2014**

# What We'll Talk About Today



**SHORT FICTION**  
**NOVELS**  
**QUESTIONS**

# Short Fiction



**FLASH FICTION (<1000)**  
**SHORT STORIES\* (<7,500)**  
**NOVELLAS\* (< 40,000)**

*\* Science Fiction Writers of America uses these numbers for award categories.*

# Research the Markets

## Find them...

- The Grinder ([thegrinder.diabolicalplots.com](http://thegrinder.diabolicalplots.com))
- Poets & Writers Mag ([www.pw.org/literary\\_magazines](http://www.pw.org/literary_magazines))
- Duotrope ([duotrope.com/](http://duotrope.com/))
- Writers Market ([www.writersmarket.com/](http://www.writersmarket.com/))
- SFWA Qualifying Markets ([www.sfwaworld.org](http://www.sfwaworld.org))



## Read them...

- Get sample copies!
- Read stories online!



# Doing Research on Grinder



[Search](#) [Release Notes](#) [Contact Us](#) [FAQ](#) [Contributors](#)

[Register](#) [Login](#)

## Search for Fiction Markets [\(Search by Name\)](#)

Enter as many details as you can to receive the most accurate results.



### Basics

Genre:

Story Style:

Story Subject:

Story Length:

Word Count:

Minimum Pay Scale:

Submission Type:

Max Average Response Time (days):

Market Qualification:

Accepts Reprint  
 Accepts Simultaneous Submissions  
 Accepts Multiple Pieces

Only Anthologies  
 Only Contests

### Exclusions [+]

Sort By:

The Submission Grinder is brought to you by [Diabolical Plots](#) and the letter Q.

# Grinder Results



Cease, Cows	S	S	F
Cellar Door Volume III	S	S	N
Chrome Baby	S	S	F
Cicada	S	S	P
Circlet Press	S	S	F
Clarkesworld Magazine	S	S	P
Collider	S	S	P
The Colored Lens	S	S	F
Corrade	S	S	N
Crabtest Magazine	S	S	N
Cricket	S	S	P
The Cross and the Cosmos	S	S	N
Crossed Genres Magazine	S	S	P
Daily Science Fiction	S	S	P
Dark Futures	S	S	F
Dark House Press: Exigencies Anthology	S	S	N
The Dark	S	S	S
Devilfish Review	S	S	N
Dimension6	S	S	S
The Disturbance Anthology Vol. 1	S	S	F
Domain SF	S	S	S
Drabblecast	S	S	S
The Earthbound Review	S	S	N
Eldritch Press	S	S	S
eLectio Publishing	S	S	N
Electric Spec	S	S	F

# Cricket's Listing on Grinder



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## Cricket



**CRICKET**, for readers ages 9 to 14, publishes original stories, poems, and articles written by the world's best authors for children and young adults.  
**FICTION:** Realistic, contemporary, historical, humor, mysteries, fantasy, science fiction, folk tales, fairy tales, legends, myths  
**NON-FICTION:** Biography, memoir, history, science, technology, natural history, social science, archeology, architecture, geography, foreign culture, travel, adventure, sports, music, dance, theatre  
**POETRY:** Serious, humorous, nonsense rhymes

[Log Submission](#) | [Suggest Correction](#)

[Website](#) | [Support!](#) | [Guidelines](#)

### Market Genres, Styles & Subjects

Genres	Styles	Subjects
General	Humorous	Art/Architecture Biography Children
Fantasy	Mainstream	Ethnic/Cultural Folklore/Mythology History
Mystery/Crime		Memoir/Personal Music Science Sports
Science Fiction		Technology Travel/Place True Adventure Young Adults/Teens

### Market Types, Lengths & Pay Scale

Flash	200 to 1000	Pro
Short Story	1000 to 2000	Pro

### Market Submission Types

Electronic Submissions?: Yes
Postal Submissions?: Yes
Reprints?: No
Multiple Submissions?: No
Simultaneous Submissions?: No

### Market Response Data [\(View recent responses from this market\)](#)

This statistical information is an aggregation of submission data provided by our members. The more data we have the more accurate our numbers will be so please be sure to log all of your submissions here and not just your rejections or acceptances.

Accuracy:	There are <b>32</b> completed reports in the past 12 months.
Averages and Boundaries:	9 min   89.63 mean avg   63 median   339 max days
<b>Responded:</b>	100.00%
Accepted:	6.25%
Rejected:	93.75% (3.33% of rejections are personal)
Rewrites:	-
<b>Dead Letters:</b>	-
Lost/Returned:	-
Never Responded:	-
Withdrawn:	-
<b>Pending:</b>	4 pending responses (32 min   78 mean avg   75 median   132 max days waiting)

[Response Turnaround Chart](#)
[Response Recency Chart](#)

# Look at Submission Guidelines



- What kinds of stories are they looking for?
- Is there a deadline?
- What are the word limits?
- What format (doc, pdf) do they accept?
- Do you need a cover letter?
- What are the response times?
- Do you get paid?

**CRICKET**  
Author Submissions

CICADA magazine for ages 14+

- Hide Guidelines



CICADA, for readers ages 14 and up, publishes original fiction, poetry, first-person nonfiction, and comics by both adult and teen writers and artists. In some cases, CICADA purchases rights for excerpts from books yet to be published. Each edition also includes reprints of high-quality selections. Please keep in mind that CICADA's readers are intelligent and sophisticated and can handle complexity with respect to theme, characterization, and plotting. The editors want to provide a balance of serious and humorous writing within each edition.

#### Call for Submissions: Maps & Monsters

Deadline: July 31, 2014

Cicada's out to fill an upcoming issue with krakens, ogres, and other beasties, literal and figurative. We're interested in the monstrous as dangerous and strong, in monsters that lurk without and within. Monsters may show up on maps (especially weatherbeaten old sea charts), though largely as shorthand for the uncharted and unnamed. We're interested in the way maps help navigate the wilderness, inspire exploration, and track relationships, spatial and otherwise.

Send us poetry, fic (genre/realistic), essay, and comics on maps & monsters! Include "Maps and Monsters" in front of your submission's title to be considered.

#### General Submissions: Categories

##### Fiction and novella

- We are interested in realistic, contemporary, and historical fiction, as well as humor, mysteries, fantasy, and science fiction.
- Length: up to 5,000 words; we will consider novellas up to 9,000 words

##### Nonfiction

- We would like to see first-person experiences of interest to teen and young adult readers.
- Length: up to 5,000 words

##### Poetry

- CICADA publishes serious, humorous, rhyming or free verse.
- Length: up to 25 lines



# Submit your Story



## Format like a pro

- Use a 1” margin on all sides.
- Do not number the first page.
- Put your name and contact information at the top, centered, on the first page.
- Put the word count in the top right corner.
- Put the story’s title, centered in all caps, approximately one-third of the way down the page from the top margin.
- Skip a line and write “by” in lowercase, then skip another line and put your name in all caps.
- Drop four lines, indent, and begin your story.
- Double-space the entire text of the story.
- Put a header at the top of every page (except the first) including the title, your last name, and page number).

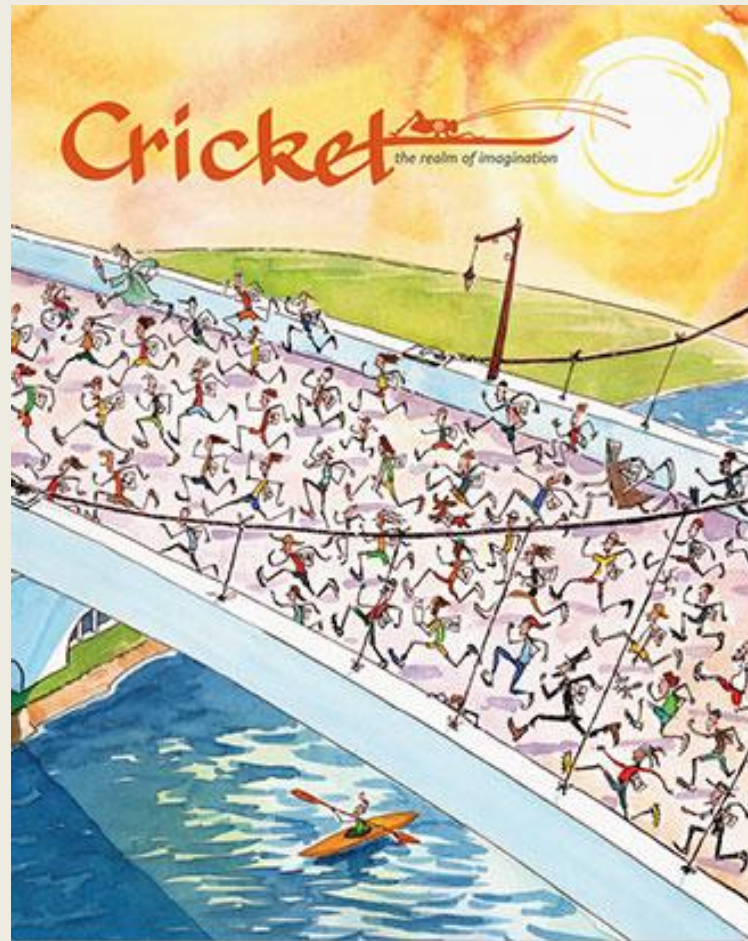
## Include

- Story
- Cover letter
  - Story info
  - Publishing credits

# The Slush Pile



# Publication



# Novels

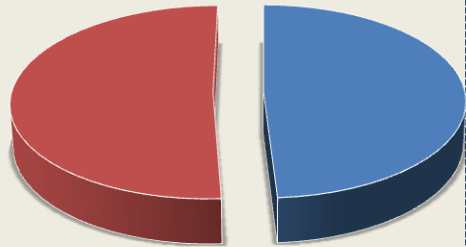


# Publishers



## Big 5

- Hachette
- HarperCollins
- MacMillan
- Penguin /Random House
- Simon & Schuster



## Everybody else

- Mid-sized Houses
  - Flux, Chronicle, Workman, Sourcebooks, etc.
- Amazon
  - Imprints such as 47 North, Skyscape, Thomas and Mercer, etc.
- Small press

# Who's who



## Agent

- Represents your book
- Pitches it to editors
- Negotiates contracts
- Schmoozes
- Keeps track of \$\$
- Negotiates foreign, film, audio rights, etc.

## Editor

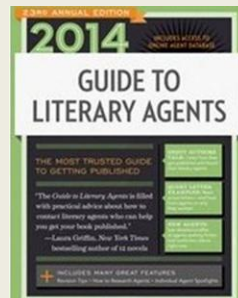
- Works for the publishing house
- Makes offer on the book.
- Works with you on revisions.
- Coordinates jacket copy, cover, etc.

# Finding an Agent



## Research

- Publishers Marketplace  
([www.publishersmarketplace.com](http://www.publishersmarketplace.com))
- Agent Query  
([www.agentquery.com](http://www.agentquery.com))
- Query Tracker  
([www.querytracker.net](http://www.querytracker.net))
- Writers Market  
([www.writersmarket.com](http://www.writersmarket.com))



## Stalk (not really)

- Read their guidelines.
- Follow them on Twitter.
- Read interviews with them on blogs.

# Query Process



- Select 5-6 agents from your list.
- Check individual agent's guidelines.
- Put together 'query package'
  - Query letter (or email)
  - Synopsis (250-300 words)
  - Sample (first 30 pages or three chapters)
- Submit
- Wait
- Send full manuscripts if requested.
- Wait some more.
- If no offer, move on to the next agents on your list.



# Do Not



- Spam agents or editors with queries.
- Call.
- Hit up writers you don't know for referrals.
- Lose patience with the process.
- Take rejection personally.



# Query Letter

Pitch the book to the agent!

Good Resource:

Query Shark  
([queryshark.blogspot.com/](http://queryshark.blogspot.com/))

Dear Ms. Mark:

After attending your panel discussion at the SCBWI Mid-Atlantic conference, I believe my young adult science fiction novel, Memento Nora, would be a good fit for your house. The novel is complete at approximately 40,000 words.

Memento Nora grew out my short story of the same name, which appeared in the May / June 2008 issue of *Odyssey Magazine*. The novel is about a teenage girl's struggle to hold on to her memories—and her identity—in a world that finds it far more lucrative for everyone to forget—and keep on shopping. Think M.T. Anderson's Feed or Scott Westerfeld's Extras meets *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

After a varied career, including over a decade at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, I recently turned to writing full time. In the past two years, I've sold dozens of short stories, including several young adult science fiction tales to *Odyssey*. I'm a member of the SFWA as well as the SCBWI.

I've included a short synopsis and the first 30 pages of the manuscript for your consideration. I'd be happy to send you the full manuscript, if you are interested.

Thanks for taking the time to read my query. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Angie Smibert  
Enclosures

# After the Sale!







Read.

Write.

Write some more.

Revise.

Develop a thick skin.

Believe in yourself and  
your stories.

Never give up.



## Advice from Garth Nix\*

# Questions?



*You can find me at [angiesmibert.com](http://angiesmibert.com)!*