**2023 FCWC Children’s Writing Intensive**

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**Humor Sells: Seven Ways to Write Funny for Kids**

People love to laugh—adults and children—so if you can incorporate humor into your manuscripts, you’ll have a better chance of selling them to publishers!

**Definition of humor:** Humor is not easily defined. What makes a person laugh depends on many factors, including personality, culture, and past experience. Think for a moment of things that make you laugh…might be different than my list. But there are some strategic tactics and universal themes that will help you craft funny.

\*Surprise: The “gotcha” element often prompts bursts of laughter. (“Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme”)

\*Voice & Character: Give your character a funny accent or exaggerate a characteristic for some easy laughs. (“Sweety” and “Escargot” are great examples!)

\*Change the Norm Around (“Children Make Terrible Pets” by Peter Brown)

\*Begin with an Unexpected Something (“Imogene’s Antlers” by David Small)

\*Let the Kids in on the Joke while the characters are clueless (“Poor Doreen: A Fishy Tale” by Sally Lloyd-Jones)

\*Funny language (My upcoming book, “The Dachshund Dash” and “Rodeo Red” by Maripat Perkins)

\*What would a kid do? (“Lucky” by David Mackintosh)