**Reaching Boys with Your Writing**

By Tim Shoemaker

*-We’re living in a FAMINE* when it comes to *great writing for boys*…

*-Boys are very different from girls* in more than physical ways…

-Our *writing for boys must differ* from writing for girls…

-Good writing for boys will *CROSSOVER to girls easily…*

-*Target the boys* & you’ve got a chance at *getting both markets*…

***The Gotta Haves*** 10 essential elements when writing for boys

1. Great cover

-The *FIRST THING* a boy is going to look at *is the COVER*.

2. White space

-The *SECOND THING* a boy may look at is *how much text* is on a page.

3. Powerful Opening

-*Not the first page*-… but the first line… and PARAGRAPH

4. Action

-Boys need *something GOING ON* or *ABOUT to HAPPEN …*

5. Show the Story— and from the Character’s POV

-You *don’t want to TELL a story*, *you want to SHOW it*.

6. Likeable Main Character

-If they don’t *QUICKLY IDENTIFY* with *the main character*, *what happens?*

7. A Clear Goal

-What does the character want—*bad*?

8. Strong conflict

-WHAT or WHO is going to *GET IN HIS WAY…*

9. Cliffhangers

-Chapter endings … make them turn the page, not close the book …

10. Short chapters

-*Short chapters may not be essential,* *but they’re a really good idea.*

***The Kisses of Death*** 10 areas to avoid when writing for boys

1. Kisses

*-Lose the romance* if writing for MIDDLE GRADE BOYS.

2. Preachy

-Using *a portion of a sermon* can *seem manipulating*.

3. Flawless Characters

-You want your readers to relate to the main character …

4. Model Material

-Beautiful girls, gorgeous guys, there is a problem here …

5. Protagonist Too Young

-Boys tend to look up to older boys and try to act older …

6. Problems Solved by Others

-The book won’t be as satisfying if the protagonist doesn’t solve the problem *…*

7. Unreal

-If the *situation is JUST TOO BIZARRE, you may lose your reader …*

8. Too much Description and Detail

-Trust me, they’ll skim over it …

9. Unfamiliar Words and Phrases

-When you use words boys don’t understand, you can lose your reader …

10. Avoid slang, trendy words, cliché’s

-They can date your story and confuse your readers …

***3 TRAPS WOMEN must AVOID when WRITING for BOYS***

*1. MAKING BOY CHARACTERS TOO GIRLY.*

*-They COMMUNICATE TOO WELL. -They RELATE TOO WELL.*

*2. MAKING THE BOYS TOO STEREOTYPICAL.*

*Always LIKING GROSS THINGS, for example*

*3. Deep down THINKING BOYS HAVE IT EASIER than GIRLS.*

-The truth is *EACH GENDER has their own set of hardships*.

-What you *BELIEVE DEEP DOWN will COME OUT in your writing*…

***Boys need good writing*.**

-They *need to be SHOWN THINGS ABOUT LIFE through the experiences of your characters…*

-They need to be shown what it means *to BECOME a MAN*…by GOD’S DEFINITION.

***Writing for boys*, is a very *WORTHY* and *NOBLE GOAL* …**

LET’S *write in a way so that THEY’LL WANT to READ IT …*

***Thanks for attending!! -Tim Shoemaker***