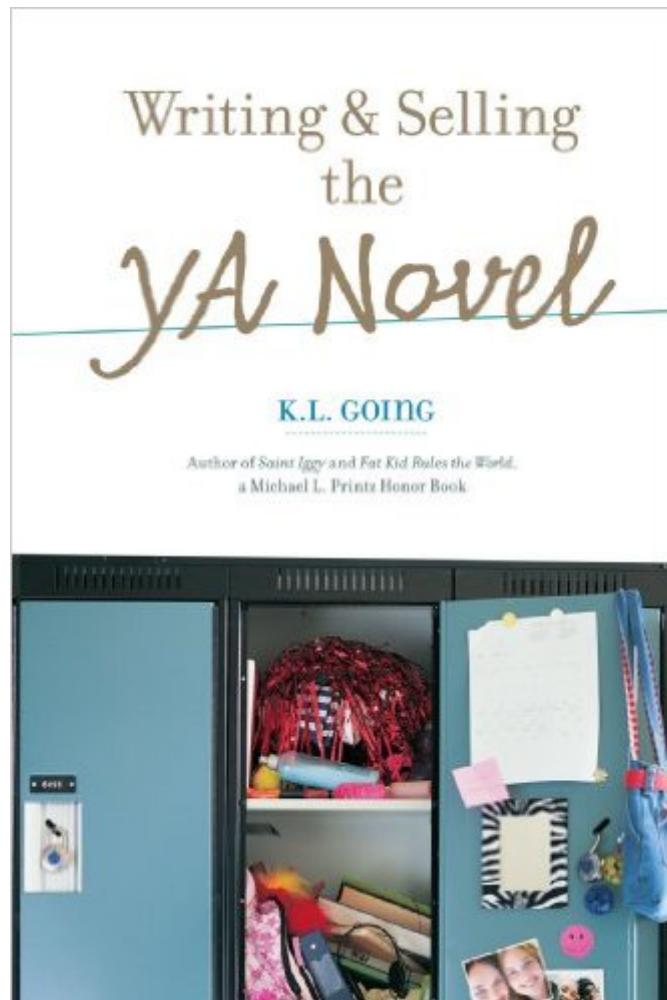


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# Writing And Selling The Young Adult Novel



## **Synopsis**

This book takes readers through every stage of writing for the YA market. Aspiring writers and established authors hoping to move into this flourishing genre alike will find instruction on writing for this special audience as well as tips on getting published. The book covers everything from plot, setting, characters and dialogue to revision and approaching publishers.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I am not going to bore you with another LOONNNNGGGG review; I'll make it quick. This book is written in narrative form, posing as a high school schedule for the chapters: like History, Gym, Homeroom, etc. I WAS HOPING for a book with fast info. However, In this book, you have to read the whole chapter to figure out the main point. And apparently the whole book to make it through the whole high school day. IT DOESN'T really tell you what to do. Regardless of how well written this book may be, it is still unclear what to do. THE PRICE is pretty reasonable if you get it for under \$7. I RECOMMEND THIS BOOK for people who have the time to read a 300 page book on how to write a book. My advice to you: Just jot down ideas. Start writing your book. It doesn't matter what part: beginning or end or if you write it backwards if you want. Don't waste your time or money by reading about writing, JUST WRITE!!!!!!!

I think this is an excellent resource if you are a YA writer or thinking about writing YA. There are not many current YA writing books out there and the ones that do exist were too basic and generalized

for me. The thing I took away the most from this book was the teen Q&A sections. They were so relevant that I ended up changing a major part of my YA WIP. I would have liked even more of these sections. Some of the information in the book was basic (for example, instead of spending a lot of time on POV and other beginning writing topics, I would have liked to have known more about YA itself or seen more examples from YA novels). I also didn't care for the way the sections were broken down by school subjects (too gimmicky). But it is very rare that I read a how-to writing book from cover to cover, and I did so with this book. Overall I really enjoyed it. (Way more so than *The Idiot's Guide to Writing for Young Adults*).

K.L Going's book is definitely useful--it sheds some light on the YA audience and industry, and acknowledges the pain and terror of writing. The book provides basic writing advice without getting bogged down with every element known to literature or writing. Two complaints: First, throughout the book Going continually relies on "the Oxford English Dictionary defines 'theme' as....," or whatever the Important Word is. Constantly. Isn't that, umm, pretty rotten writing? Just thought a book about writing was sort of a bad place to use such cheap tricks. Second, Going uses an obnoxiously labored metaphor of a school day to illustrate writing a book. It doesn't work, it's juvenile (our audience, perhaps, but not Going's), and adds absolutely nothing to the informative value of the book. It's just a gimick. That said, not much is lost by these two mistakes. The book is still worth buying.

If this is your first and only book on writing, it might be helpful to you. If you have already read a number of how-to-write books then this will be disappointing. There is plenty of advice on how to write for young readers, but it basically amounts to: come up with a good story and write it well. Duh. Turns out YA readers want what we all want--a credible, exciting story with engaging characters. Most of Going's advice is general and little is backed up with examples. I agree with another reviewer who thought the formatting into "class periods" was hokey. The writing is just plain boring; I am halfway through and skimming. Hopefully the "selling" part of the title will provide more useful information. Her lists of good YA books and the young readers' panel are the only useful parts I've come across so far. As a final comment, I am disturbed by the quality of copy editing in most books, and this one is no exception. It has one of the most glaring errors I have ever seen: a typo in a main chapter heading. So if you are interested in "A Plateful of Heathly Plot", go for it. Otherwise, give it a pass.

Loads of good information here. It helps, though, to force yourself to take it an exercise at a time. That's where the learning comes in--doing the work. One suggestion I highlighted (and just found--I need to do this tomorrow!) is mapping out the journey each of my main characters make through my novel. "Does each character arc have a beginning, middle and end? Does each character change in some way?" What themes are present at the beginning and at the end of your writing? Did you lose something you intended to write about? Maybe you didn't even see it until you did this exercise. Time to add or fix! That alone is worth the price of the book.

I've been a writer for many years, but I could not figure out what YA fiction was for many years due to how many different definitions there are. This book and Writing Great Books for Young Adults: Everything You Need to Know, from Crafting the Idea to Landing a Publishing Deal helped me learn almost all the important information I needed to know on writing for young adults. I really liked how the information was formatted, and it gave me an idea of how the publishing industry works. I've taken two college-level creative writing classes in 2008 and 2009, and a lot of the technical writing information was a very barebones review for me, but I didn't skip any parts of the book. The best parts of the book for me were "Lunch", "Study Hall" and "Shop Class" because that was where I learned most of the information from. All of the sections have homework sections and helpful tips. With any luck, I plan on using the information when I write and market my YA novel.

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