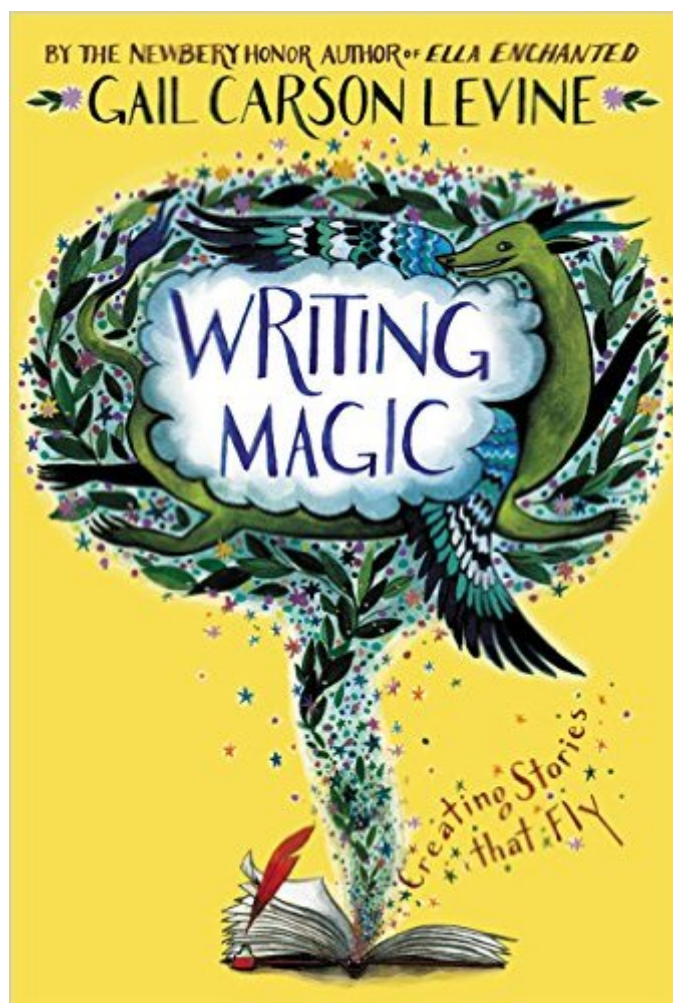


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# Writing Magic: Creating Stories That Fly



## Synopsis

Bestselling author of *Ella Enchanted* and fairy-tale master Gail Carson Levine helps you make magic with your writing! In *Writing Magic*, Newbery Honor author Gail Carson Levine shares her tricks of the trade. She shows how you can get terrific ideas for stories, invent great beginnings and endings, write sparkling dialogue, develop memorable characters—and much, much more. She advises you about what to do when you feel stuck—and how to use helpful criticism. Best of all, she offers writing exercises that will set your imagination on fire. With humor, honesty, and wisdom, Gail Carson Levine shows you that you, too, can make magic with your writing.

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reissue edition (December 23, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006236717X

ISBN-13: 978-0062367174

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 142 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,477 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in Books > Children's Books >

Education & Reference > Reading & Writing > Composition & Creative Writing #39 in Books >

Children's Books > Education & Reference > Jobs & Careers #102 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills

Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 5 Up "The accomplished children's and young adult author speaks directly to young writers, providing advice on all aspects of fiction creation. Sections titled "Liftoff," "Heart and Guts," "Plowing Through," "Digging Deeper," and "Writing Forever" address such topics as coming up with story ideas, developing characters and plot, and finding opportunities for publication. The tone is friendly and direct, getting quickly to the point in each short chapter, which closes with writing prompts. Levine encourages readers to take their work seriously while remembering to have fun. An informative and encouraging must-read for young writers." Beth Gallego, Los Angeles Public Library, North Hollywood Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed

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Levine, best known for *Ella Enchanted* (1997), offers middle-graders ideas about making their own writing take flight. Though her concentration is primarily fiction, she notes that her suggestions can help all sorts of writing. Among the topics she covers are shaping characters, beginnings and endings, revising, and finding ideas. But the best part of Levine's book is her honesty as she shares with children the truth that there are no perfect books, that rejection can be as useful as success, and that you thank the creative part of you by using the ideas that it sends. She even dips into the details of getting published, which will inspire the most serious in the audience. Each chapter concludes with writing exercises, some surprisingly inviting, all of which end with the injunctions: "Have fun" and "Save what you write." A terrific item to have on hand for writing groups or for individual young writers who want to improve. Ilene Cooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Where to start?! I cannot say enough great things about this book. Full disclosure; I am NOT the target audience for this as I'm well over the age this was written for. However, this is one of the best books on reading that I have come across. As an adult you'll likely whiz through it in one sitting but the advice provided is absolutely invaluable. After reading, I passed the book along to my teenage son to read, I'll likely even give it to my 17 year old daughter as well. The book offers practical, sage advice along with writing assignments to tackle along the way. While I didn't undergo the writing assignments I believe that they would be very useful to any youth reading this book as it provides a structured way of writing and helps them put advice into motion.

What a great book for kids that love to write. Love that the chapters are short and they give you "exercises" at the end, that make you want to write. My boys who are only 12 and 13 love this book and look forward to the end of the chapter to see what they get to write about. I love that she talks about just getting the story out... editing will be done later. She progresses on topics as you move into the book. But she explains not to sweat the small stuff that can be fixed later. That writers block is normal and tips on how to move past it. This book has helped my boys love to put their stories on paper without fear! So glad I got this book!

This is a fantastic book. I got it for my son. It's a little above his writing level, but I'm sure it'll be very handy when he gets there. It seems like it's more for the junior high crowd. Until then, I'll be reading

it!

This is a book for anyone who would love to write, but doesn't know where to start...or anyone who has been writing, but doesn't know how to keep going. It is helpful, practical, and inspiring. I love the prompts at the end of each chapter, and I love her rules for writing. Levine is one of my favorite children's authors, and she pours her experience into this book (and the one that follows, "Writer to Writer," which I also recommend). An excellent buy and a great gift for young writers and dreamers!

My 11yr old granddaughter loved this book. She said it really helped her writing.

This book on writing is really for children, and I had read it from the children's department of my public library. However, I liked it immensely -- so much so that I purchased the Kindle edition. It is straightforward and filled with a lot of good advice even though it is not technically geared for adults. A little change here and there (such as substituting the word "boss" or naming a relative instead of going with the original word "teacher" or "classmate"), and the writing exercises become more palatable to grownups.

If you want your stories to fly read this boob . . .

I purchased this book a few days ago and read it in about 45 minutes (it's a pretty short read). Mrs. Levine does an amazing job making a compact book that gives you all the scoop and tid bits you will need to hone your writing. This is not, by any means, a book that \*shows\* you how to write. It simply gives you exercises and information to \*enable\* your writing. Very good buy! I love Ella Enchanted! Read it as a child and just purchased it as a result of this book! I plan on getting the rest of her works also!

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