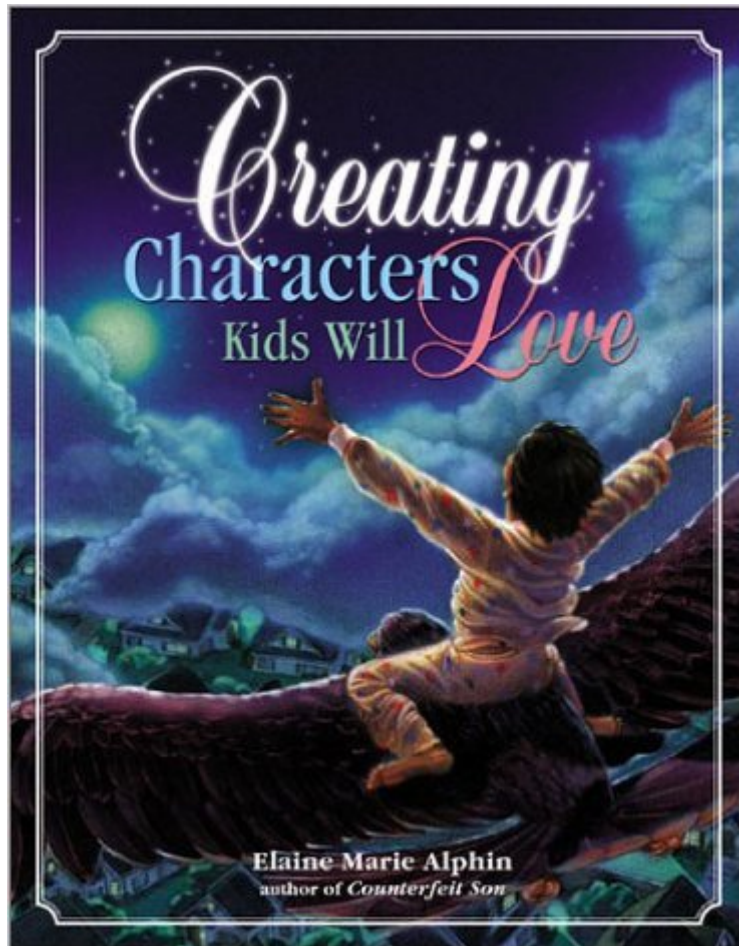


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# Creating Characters Kids Will Love



## Synopsis

One key element in creating engaging stories for kids is developing vivid characters. Veteran children's author Elaine Alphin gives readers concrete tips for bringing their characters to life, including: How to observe real kids and bring their life onto the page; How to remember your own childhood and make it a part of your story; How to use the elements of characterization as the basis for conflict and action; With examples from successful children's books and exercises throughout, this book is a must-have for both the beginning writer and those more experienced in the children's book field.

## Book Information

Series: Write for Kids

Paperback: 232 pages

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 7 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,571,190 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in [Books > Reference >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

What do you do when you don't feel like writing? You go online and review your favorite writing books on .com! Creating Characters Kids Will Love is really a must-have for the wanna-be children's writer. This book and "Story Sparkers" (also available here--look for the set and save money!) are the best write-for-children guides I own, and I own nearly every one on the market! The fun large format makes this book feel sort of like a workbook (though it really isn't), and it's easy to just flip to a section and start reading some helpful info without starting at the beginning. This is how I find myself reading this books much of the time (I get stuck writing and take a break by just reading some advice out of one of these). There's some very good stuff here, and lots and lots of recommendations for books and magazines to read, if you're the kind who'll actually go find the

stuff! This book concentrates on character development, with some how-tos on plot structure and conflict (as they relate to character development!) thrown in. Also, if you're interested in writing true stories or maybe historical fiction, there are chapters for you. All in all, it's really a good read. Even if you don't relate to the author's own examples of writing, you'll come away with a better idea of what kids (and publishers) expect in your manuscript. Good luck!

This is a very good source book for any one who wants to write for children, or have a main character that is a child. It really makes you think and gives you very good insights on children. It's also very easy to read and enjoyable.

I'm very glad I ordered this book as an interlibrary loan instead of buying it. What a disappointment it was, from the disturbing cover art to the 50's clip-art illustrations to the hodge-podge, disorganized text. In a series of repetitive, higgledy-piggledy chapters, the author recommends the reader read specific children's books in order to "notice" a single thing about them (eg "See how Gene and Phinny are best friends--who turn out not to know each other at all") and gives assignments which mostly have to do with keeping a journal of memories from one's own childhood... and then she makes one of the most appalling errors I've seen in the literature on children's literature. On page 125, she writes that Harry Potter is "bullied by Malloy and Snipes". Now I can understand not liking Harry Potter enough to read it, but in that case, why use it as an example? And surely the name of Snape, if not Malfoy, has entered the zeitgeist by now to the extent that most people know it? This was where she finished losing me. She began losing me on the page where she suggested that the hopeful writer visit a school and ask lots of questions about the children's daily schedule. I've worked in the public school system. A person who did this would probably excite quite a bit of suspicion and might end up getting a visit from the police. The book may contain material that is new to a beginner, but the difficulty of ferreting it out may daunt some readers. The last section of the book is on writing nonfiction, which may not be of much interest to those who have chosen to read a book on creating characters.

I recommend this book to anyone thinking about writing for children and anyone who currently writes for children. The book starts with the basics and builds towards the end. It is easy to understand with plenty of exercises to get those wheels spinning. Great for those interested in picture books, middle grade and young adult novels. A must have for a writer's library!

This book is filled with specific examples of creating great characters. It is divided into the different types of children's literature, so it can help any aspiring author who may change the ages he/she decides to use in books or stories. The book is a guide that authors should use to check their work before they submit it to a publisher. I highly recommend it.

This is more like a class than just a book. It's full of great information and practical exercises to put them into place right away. I spent a few days reading it and doing the exercises and found it invaluable.

Daughter loves this book..

Good reference book.

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