

Writing Christian Nonfiction for Children
The Inside Scoop from a Bestselling Author
with Tama Fortner

Types of Nonfiction Books for Children

Note: The word counts given here are rough estimates. Actual word counts may vary greatly depending upon the topic, the publisher, and whether or not the day ends in “y.”

- *board books* — 50 to 500 words — Made of sturdy cardboard, these books are primarily for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.
- *concept books* — 50 to 500 words — Concept books teach ABCs, numbers, or other lessons. They may also be board books.
- *picture books* — 50 to 1,500 words — With a heavy emphasis on artwork, picture books are for roughly ages 3 to 8.
- *devotionals* — 100 to 400 words per devotional — The length of the devotional will vary with the targeted age group.
- *early readers* — 250 to 3,000 words — Early readers are for children just beginning to read, roughly ages 5 to 7.
- *chapter books* — 4,000 to 10,000 words — For elementary age readers, these books target ages 6 to 9.
- *middle grade readers* — 25,000 to 40,000 words — For older readers, these books target ages 8 to 12.
- *young adult (YA)* — 50,000 to 100,000 words — These books primarily target the tween and teen crowds, though early twenty-somethings may sometimes be included, depending on the topic.

Key Terms

- STEM — science, technology, engineering, math
- STEAM — science, technology, engineering, math + the arts (humanities, language arts, drama, music, visual arts, etc.)