



Focus on the Family's Youth Magazines Panel

Summer 2021

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"If you know a kid, or even if you were a child, you can probably write for kids!"



Clubhouse

Boys and Girls, ages 8-12
12 issues/year, 32 pages



Club Jr.

Boys and Girls, ages 3-7
12 issues/year, 32 pages

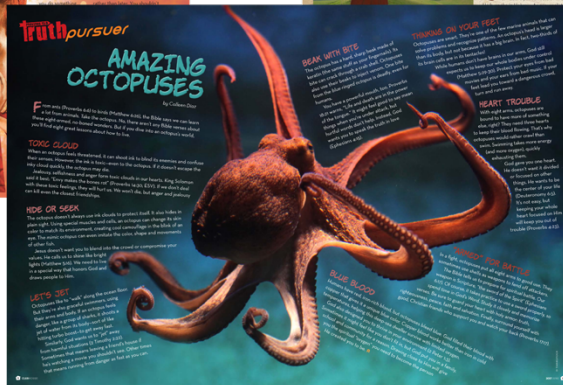


Brio

Teen Girls
6 issues/year, 76 pages

Constant need for new content . . . that's where you come in!

Freelance Opportunities: Clubhouse

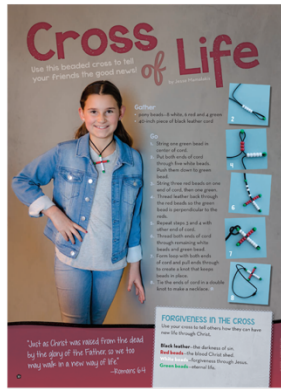


Truth Pursuer devotional, 850 words

Christian worldview, orthopraxy (how we should live), Biblical archeology

Spiritual lessons from science (rooted in God's Word *and* God's World)

Don't be afraid to go *deep*—Clubhouse kids are well-versed in the Bible



Crafts and Recipes

Can a child (safely) complete most of the steps?

Test the craft or recipe yourself. It helps you write clear instructions and helps us see what it looks like (include a photo)

Visually appealing: tasty, fun, cute, even strange!

Prioritize entrees, salads and healthy snacks over dessert

Bundle 2-3 related crafts or recipes for a two-page spread



Kid Feature/Interview, 450 or 800 words

Ordinary Kids who do Extraordinary Things for God

Somewhere in your life, you know a kid who does amazing things—share their story!

Inspiring Acts of Service

Maisie and Jackson sold lemonade to fly veterans to war memorials

Holli sewed 1,200 masks for the homeless

Malachi raised and trained a service dog

Jeremy stopped a school bus after the driver had a heart attack

Hannah and her friends hold umbrellas as they welcome people to church in rainy Oregon

We also feature child athletes, actors, singers and kids with cool jobs

Do your *own* interview (get lots of quotes) and secure photos of the child in action

Science and Nature, 800 words

Science viewed through a Biblical lens

To write for kids, you need to research! Use reliable sources; include a bibliography



Quizzes, 800 words

Cosmo-esque personality quizzes through a Biblical lens

Encourage kids to develop godly characteristics, frequently tied to monthly theme

Fun! Funny! Creative design!



Fiction, 1650 words

All genres: historical, choose-your-own-adventure, sci-fi, sports, contemporary

Must be through the lens of a child

Limit your characters (2-4) so you can dig deeper

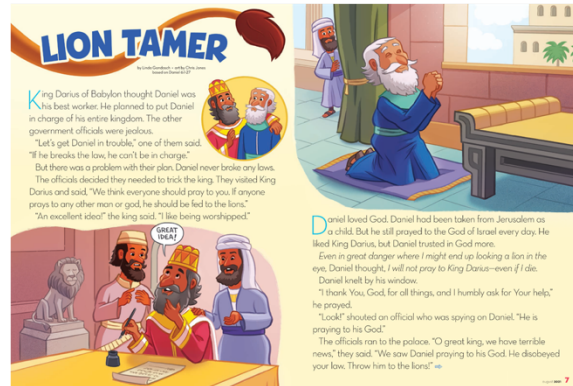
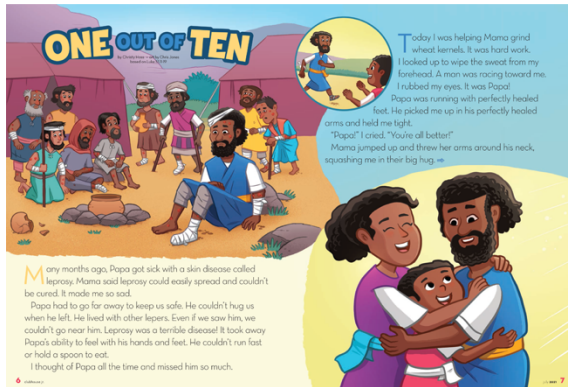
Give us the best or worst day of your character's life

Real conflict! Danger! Relationship struggles!

Expect to rewrite... there are no one-draft wonders

Freelance Opportunities: Club Jr.

Kids ages 3-7 don't read as much, which makes illustration critical—does your story set up a fun premise to draw?
Parents read Club Jr. *with* their children

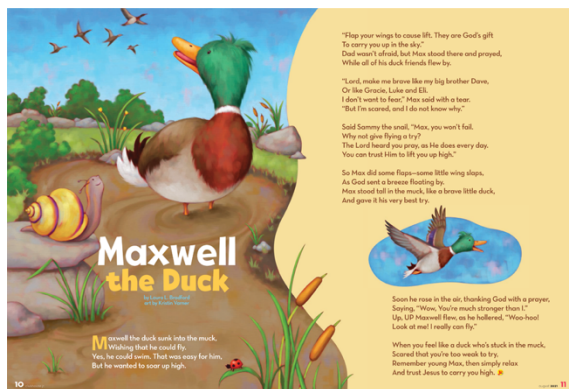


Bible Stories, 400 words

Fictional account of true, Bible story, written like a storybook

Do not copy and paste Bible stories directly

From a child / cute animal perspective (who was *impacted* by the story?)



Poetry, 150 words (or less)

Needs concrete subject we can illustrate (like a duck or messy room)

Rhyme and meter critical

Extra element: puzzle that ties into poem or page art



Animal Feature, 450 words

3-4 animals per story, bonded by theme kids can understand

Include a takeaway for kids' lives

Good sources, unique animals, appealing voice



Crafts, Recipes and Activities

Must include steps for small children (mix, smash, color, etc.)

Use common materials or ingredients that families have around the house



Rebus, 200 words

Choose short words that can be illustrated (common nouns like “ball”)

Repeat core words as many times as you can... drilling vocabulary to early readers

Keep your sentences short: avoid compound sentences and run-ons

Still needs to be a story (with a twist)



Fiction, 800 words

“A children’s story that can only be enjoyed by children is a bad children’s story.”

The “Super Grandma” Problem

Child protagonist needs to solve their own problems (adults can offer advice or encouragement, but kid needs to be the hero)

We want you to make our jobs easy!

Send full manuscripts

Grab our attention on page 1

Don’t worry about cover letter (2-3 sentences max)

Did you meet us at a conference?

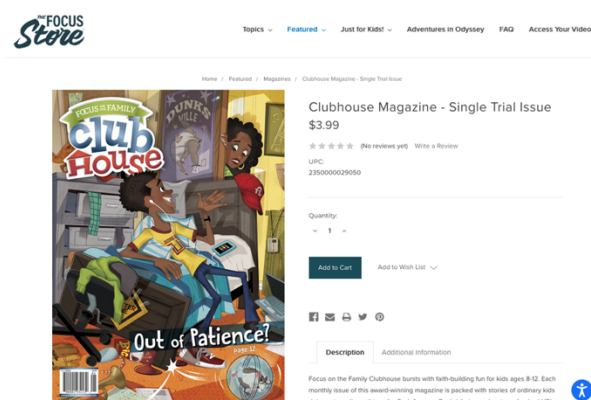
Have you been published in a children’s magazine?

What is your manuscript? (story, recipe, interview, etc.)

We work **6-8 months** in advance

Think about lesser, family-centric holidays (Grandparents’ Day vs. Christmas)

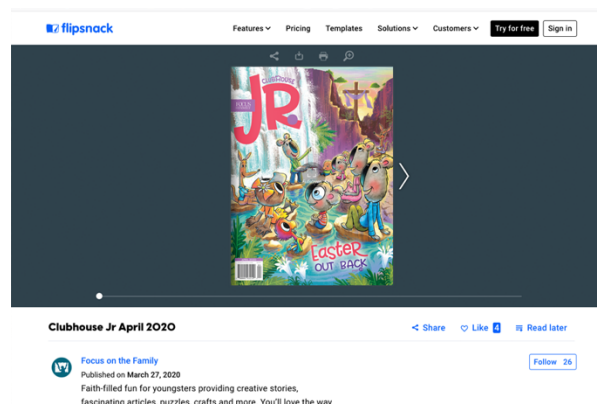
Get familiar with our magazines!



Purchase a single, current issue (\$3.99):

<https://store.focusonthefamily.com/clubhouse-magazine-single-trial-issue/>
<https://store.focusonthefamily.com/clubhouse-jr-magazine-single-trial-issue/>
<https://store.focusonthefamily.com/brio-magazine-single-trial-issue/>

Note: The August issue of Clubhouse is written and illustrated by readers. Wait for the September issue to be available.



Browse an older issue online (free):

<https://www.flipsnack.com/Focus/clubhouse-april-2020.html>
<https://www.flipsnack.com/Focus/clubhouse-jr-april-2020.html>
<https://www.flipsnack.com/Focus/brio-junejuly-2020.html>

Review our Submission Guidelines:

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/clubhouse-magazine/about/submission-guidelines/>
<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/clubhouse-jr-magazine/about/submission-guidelines/>
<http://media.focusonthefamily.com/brio/pdf/brio-writers-guidelines-2019.pdf>

Submit your manuscript:

Clubhouse—Stephen O'Rear, orearsx@fotf.org

Club Jr.—Rachel Pfeiffer, Rachel.Pfeiffer@fotf.org

Brio—submissions@briomagazine.com

Clubhouse/Club Jr. 2022 Themes

Jan – **Stand Up for One Another.** Care about and defend the value and sanctity of all people and human life. Notice and work to right the wrongs around you. Also this month (ATM): **Sanctity of Human Life.** (Prov. 21:15)

Feb – **Love Endures.** Love sticks through difficult times. It believes the best in people. We can love when we don't feel loved back. And we can know we're loved, even when we feel like we're unlovable. (1 Cor. 13:7)

March – **Planting Good Seeds.** You are growing. If you plant weeds, weeds grow. But if you plant good seeds, you'll mature into the person God intended you to be. What you eat, view, think, study and pray matters. (Gal. 6:7-8)

April – **Grace and Forgiveness.** God is holy; we are not. Once we understand His amazing grace and forgiveness, it helps us show grace to others—family, friends, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. ATM: **Easter.** (Col. 3:12-13)

May – **Start the Conversation.** Communication pulls people together. Build conversation skills and make the first move to talk with others. Sit with the lonely kid. Prayer is conversation with God. ATM: **Mother's Day.** (Eph. 4:29)

June – **This Is Me.** Dig into and develop your personal identity (style, worldview, vocabulary, outlook, preferences). Value your parents' and God's opinions of who you really are. ATM: **Father's Day.** (Prov. 27:19)

July – **Live the Adventure.** God created an amazing world for you to enjoy. Seek to have an adventurous and active summer. Strengthen your body. Grow your mind. Live "dangerously" for God. (Ps. 145:5)

Aug – **Embrace the No.** Kids love to say no. Parents, and God, say no too—and for good reason. Boundaries protect, build trust and provide freedom. (Ps. 16:5-6)

Sept – **Deeper Friendships.** Be brave by diving deeper in relationships. Share struggles, be vulnerable, make memories and find commonality with others, even with those who look different or may be differently abled. (Prov. 17:17)

Oct – **Explore Creatively.** Spread your wings at school Try a new sport, club or class. Explore options to find other things you like. Do something in a new way. Break out of your comfort zone. ATM: **Bring Your Bible to School** (Ecc. 11:6)

Nov – **Connecting Through Kindness.** Show hospitality over the holidays. Open your heart when others come into your home or church. Be considerate of others' needs and feelings. (1 Cor. 10:24)

Dec – **Rediscover Hope.** Advent teaches to wait and hope for a glorious future with Christ. Lean into Jesus and away from loneliness or disappointment that can be part of Christmas. Don't let hope fade; hope isn't a feeling. (1 Pet. 1:13)