

SILVER MOON PRESS

160 Fifth Avenue · New York, NY 10010

AMERICAN HISTORICAL FICTION

AUTHOR SPECIFICATIONS AND GUIDELINES

General Guidelines:

- Fictional central character involved in a mystery or adventure . . . lots of suspense
- Significant eras in American history—include real people, places, and events
We have a particular interest in the Revolutionary War, Colonial times, and New York State history. Stories that follow New York's 4th and 5th grade core curriculum have a greater chance of acceptance than those that don't. The guide is available at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/socst/ssrq.html>
- Multicultural awareness—sensitive issues of race, religion, and gender are to be raised with a balanced presentation
- Story must take place during a historical period. We do not accept fantasy, science fiction, or historical fiction with elements of either.

Character Guidelines:

- Male or female protagonist, age 11-14
- Coming of age conflicts

PAGES:	80-96 (in book format)
WORDS:	12,500-17,500
CLOTH FORMAT:	6" x 9"
PAPER FORMAT:	5" x 7½"
ILLUSTRATIONS:	8 -10 black and white drawings, one per chapter* (for 6" x 9" page) Color cover
READING LEVEL:	Grade 4
SUITABLE FOR READERS:	8-12 years old
VOICE:	Third person; no heavy dialects please
GRAMMAR:	Generally we follow the <i>Chicago Manual of Style</i> . We prefer a more contemporary approach to the use of commas—fewer not more—but we do employ the serial comma.
STYLE:	Just as journalism uses the five Ws, fiction writing should consider the five senses. What did it look like, smell like, etc. from the protagonist's point of view? Avoid using the word <i>then</i> in your narrative.
HISTORICAL AFTERNOTE:	If space allows, we include a brief summary of the real events, places, and people in the story. (fact vs. fiction)
ENDPAPERS:	Maps (author may or may not be required to furnish)

It is helpful if your (brief) cover letter synthesizes your story and describes your research. Please include a complete manuscript with word count noted, and a **SASE. Materials sent without a SASE will be discarded. Response time may take several months. Simultaneous submissions are accepted.**

*Books may or may not include B&W illustrations, depending on the series and word count.