

*Here are some samples of good query letters. When applying for the Gotham Conference, you don't need to address the query to a specific person, nor point out why that person is right for your book.*

### **Sample Query Letter for Picture Book**

Dear AGENT NAME,

I'm an author/illustrator seeking representation for my latest picture book, GRUB & SEED, about a raccoon's ever-evolving relationship with a seed he meets in the trash one evening. I'm writing to you because your list is filled with some of my favourite picture book creators, and if my manuscript can make you laugh it will have been the achievement of my lifetime.

After a chance encounter in a garbage can, Grub the raccoon agrees to plant Seed in exchange for cheeseburgers. The budding friendship is threatened, however, when Seed blossoms into something unexpected.

(Word count: 599, age range: 4-7)

I've authored and illustrated 4 picture books, with a fifth set to publish with Kids Can Press. I've been working in children's publishing un-agented for the last 5 years (on the well-meaning but rather bleak advice of a college business teacher) and though I've established great relationships with a few publishers in that time, I'm looking for a change of pace. Specifically, I'd love to not feel like I'm flying by the seat of my pants every time I sign a contract. I'd also welcome the chance to develop a partnership with someone I trust, and sincerely hope we can work together.

There has been interest in GRUB & SEED from (PUBLISHER), who have requested to see a revised draft incorporating some of the team's feedback. The manuscript pasted below is that new edited draft (thumbnails available upon request).

Looking forward to hearing from you.

AUTHOR NAME

## Sample Query Letter for Middle Grade Novel

*Some monsters are just lost.*

Dear AGENT NAME,

MONSTER MAKER is a 40,000-word middle grade horror/mystery.

Dilly Briggs is afraid of everything, from monsters to his possibly extraterrestrial grandma. Which makes life tough, seeing as how his mom is the most renowned monster movie maker in the world, while his father seemingly never existed. Dilly wants to follow in his mom's footsteps and have adoring fans—he's even invented a few monsters himself—but can't fathom how to face his own fears.

When Dilly's mom's newest monster appears on set ahead of schedule, Dilly begins to fear that this time, the monster is actually real. Not like the time he walked in on Mothman in the bathroom. That was a costume. Right?

Unfortunately, Dilly finds that he is the only one concerned about the monster's appearance, as well as its clear intent on following Dilly wherever he goes and scaring the pants off him. As trouble brews on set and the cast and crew fear a curse, it's up to Dilly to face his fears and save his mom's movie, as well as learning the truth about the monster and how it all connects to his father.

I'm a freelance writer who lives in New York City, member of SCBWI, lover of all things spooky and scary, and this would be my debut novel.

Thanks for your time.

AUTHOR NAME

## Sample Query Letter for YA Novel

AGENT NAME,

When sixteen year-old, Clara Evans' school, Lupton Academy, implements a strict policy that bans over one hundred books, including Clara's favorite, *Sans Home* by Lukas Tiberio, she starts a secret library in her locker.

While she risks suspension to give classmates access to the life-changing literature, kids who rarely read become some of her most passionate patrons. But when one student misinterprets the message of a banned book, it affects the whole school. As Clara struggles to make sense of her involvement, she must choose between hiding, or attempting to put back together the broken pieces of herself.

*Suggested Reading* is a 57,000 word YA contemporary love letter to literature, a tale of the unfathomable impact of books, and the strength of agape friendship. The Recipe? One cup books change the world—a la *Book Thief*. Some bright hints of Smith's *Winger*, and a generous pinch of A.S. King's literary voice.

I am a member of the SCBWI, and the co-founder of a reddit-style creator community called Musetic. I offer my novel, in full or in part, for your consideration. I appreciate your time in evaluating its possibilities.

P.S. Geeks unite. That is all.

AUTHOR NAME