

Discover a new angle to an old idea.
Target a common topic to a different age group.

When Shirley Raye wrote her reader, *Lewis & Clark: A Prairie Dog for the President*, there were already many children's books on the subject of Lewis and Clark. However, there were none in the reader lines for grades 1-3. Nor was there a book that focused on the explorers' adventures in capturing and delivering a live prairie dog to President Thomas Jefferson. Her manuscript put a new twist on a story from history, and it filled a market niche.

The Scoop About Illustrations

Most publishers do not want a manuscript submitted with illustrations unless the author also does the drawings.

Do not find someone to illustrate your manuscript and make an agreement until you check *Writer's Market* and publishers' websites. Most publishers hire an illustrator after a manuscript has been purchased.

However, for historical fiction and nonfiction books, it is helpful for writers to keep a list of sources that have photos or pictures that can help an illustrator. The list would not be submitted with the manuscript. If the story were to sell, the writer would let the editor know that useful sources are available to pass along to the illustrator. For Jennifer's *Man o' War* reader, she provided website links and picture sources to the editor which showed Man o' War's racing colors, an old video of the horse running, and photos of