

THE MIDDLE GRADE MAVENS' SURVIVAL GUIDE TO PUBLISHER REJECTION

So, a publisher gave you a "no, thanks" or perhaps you heard only crickets. This is part and parcel of being an aspiring author or illustrator (and even seasoned creators suffer this too). Here are our five top tips for rejection.

1. CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS

You finished something and submitted it. Congratulations, that's huge! So this publisher didn't want it, the one next might. And if you received feedback, that's even more amazing. Celebrate!

2. STAY POSITIVE

Remember, this is a business and competition is fierce. There are many reasons why a publisher chooses not to publish your manuscript and many of them are not a reflection of your writing quality. If the publisher gives you a reason, that's great!

3. DON'T HASSLE THE PUBLISHER

Publishers deal with huge numbers of manuscripts and don't have time to respond to every one. If their website gives a timeframe that you should wait to hear from them, wait until the time has passed, mark it off as 'not interested' and move on.

4. GET RIGHT BACK IN THE SADDLE

Keep your spirits up - if you receive a rejection or an indicated time frame passes, make another submission right away. Record everything in a submission spreadsheet so you don't double-dip. Then, get on with writing/illustrating. Never wait around for a response.

5. TAKE CONTROL

Find something you can do within the industry that you can control, where you don't have to worry about rejection and you can grow your skills. Write book reviews, start a blog, manage a community or volunteer for a writers' organisation, for example.