

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. Do you know how amazing that is? You made something from nothing. Celebrate it! Before you even hit send, but even if you already have... celebrate!

2. STAY POSITIVE OR QUIT

Remember, this is a business and competition is super fierce. There are many reasons why a publisher chooses not to take a manuscript and many of them are not a reflection of writing quality. Chin up! Or... just quit. Quitting also works. Until creativity beckons once more.

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 for them' and move on. ALWAYS be professional.

4. GET RIGHT BACK IN THE SADDLE

Mark that rejection on your submission spreadsheet (you do have one, don't you?) and make another submission right away, either with the same manuscript or a different one. Keep skin in the game. But then, get on with things. 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 reviews, blog, manage a community or volunteer for a writers' organisation... Control what you can, let the rest just happen.