



Little People, BIG Possibilities

**Want to Join the  
Journey?**

[www.HeatherLMontgomery.com](http://www.HeatherLMontgomery.com)

@HeatherLMont



# 1. Prepare for the Long Haul



2006

2018

Book of the  
Year  
Alabama

Kirkus  
Booklist

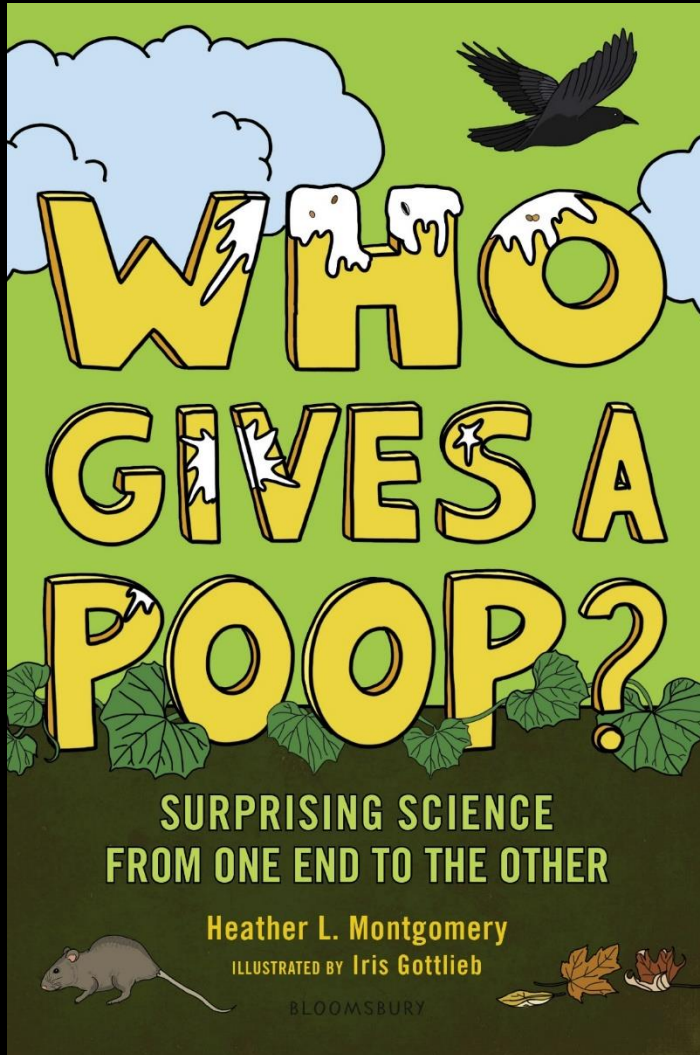
Redbud  
Red Poppy

- ★ Kirkus
- ★ Booklist
- ★ SL Journal
- ★ SL Connect.

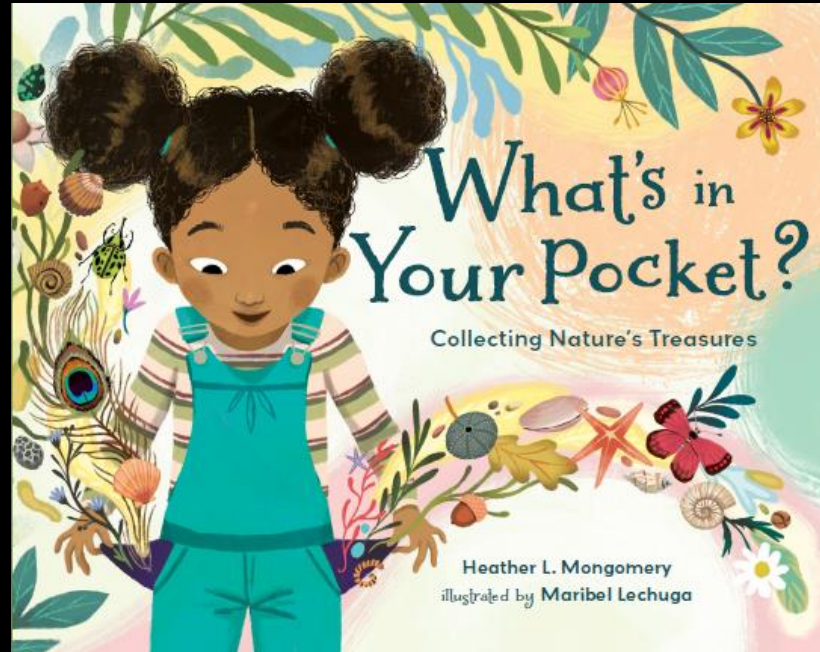
VOYA List  
Orbis Pictus  
ALA Notable  
Texas Topaz

Kirkus Review

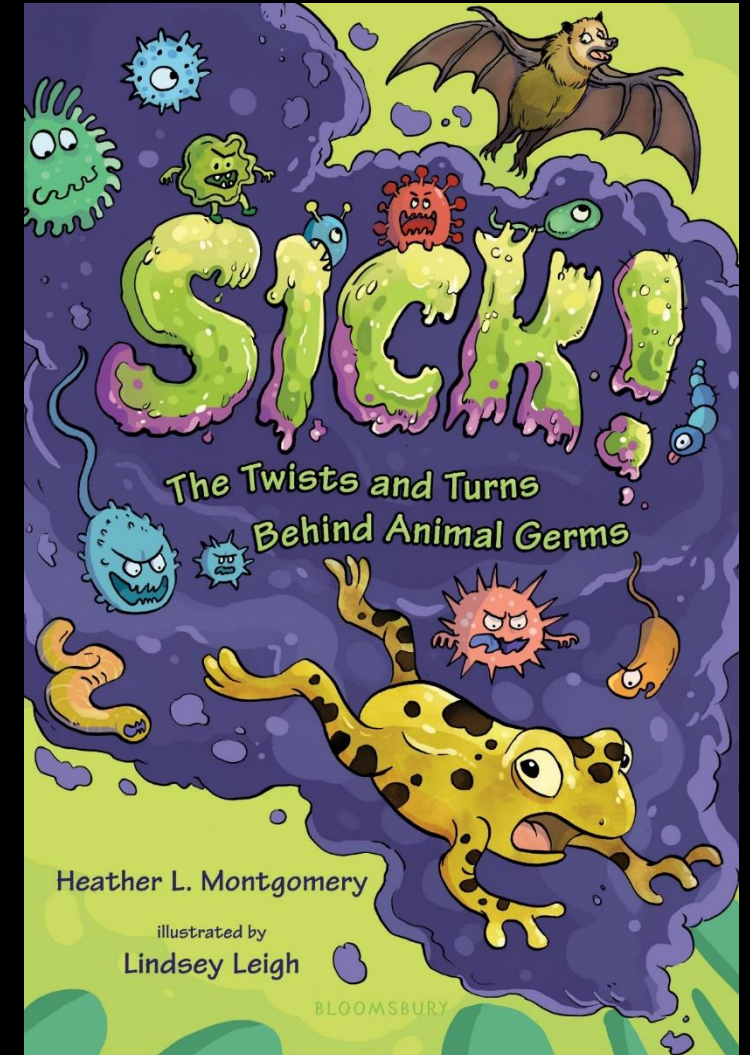




2020



2021

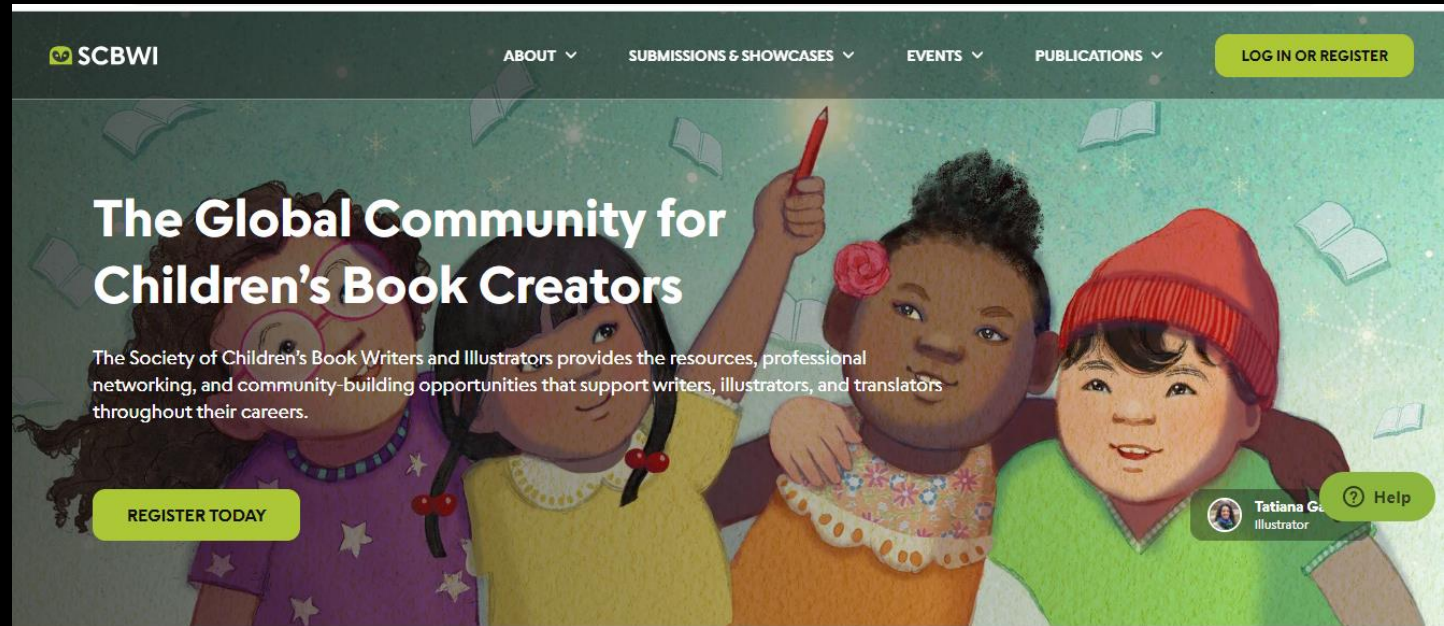


Coming in February

2024

## 2. Don't travel alone

1. Join SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators)
2. Read 100 recent kidlit books
3. Find (or start) a critique/book study group



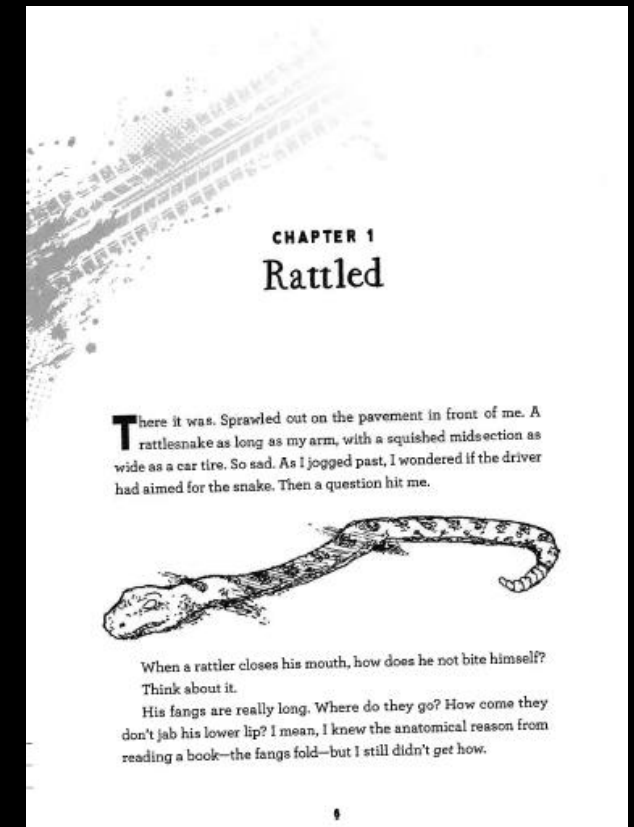
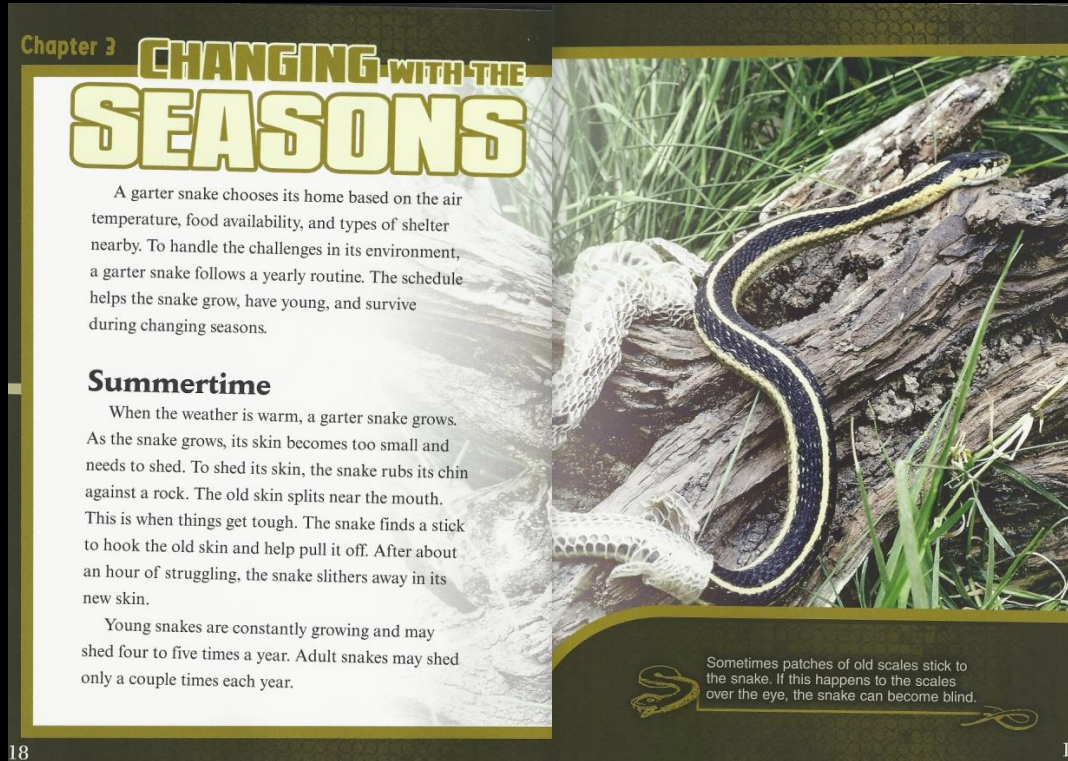
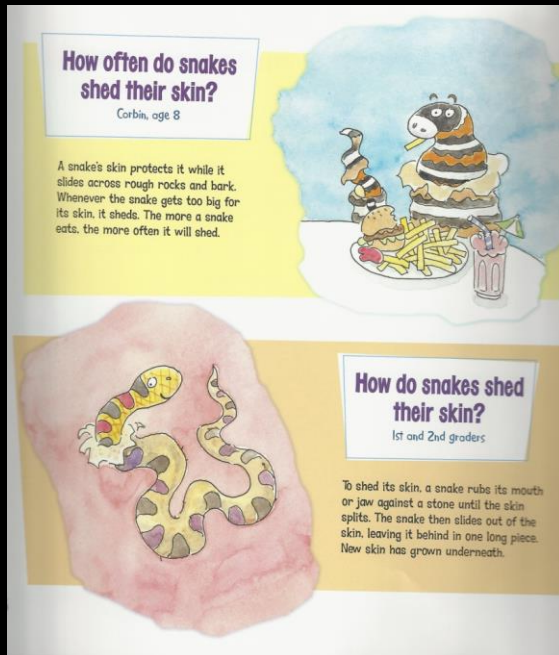
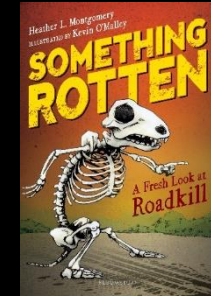
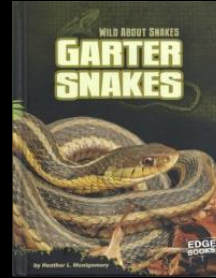
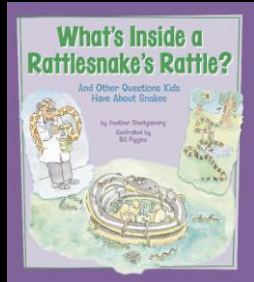


# 3. Train Hard (Study the Industry)



Love your librarian!

# Understand Your Audience





# Understand the Publishers



## Hot Spot!

By Janet Fox

"Here it comes!" my son Kevin shouted.

We felt a rumble beneath our feet. We heard a noise like a roaring train. Boiling water shot out of the ground and blew high into the air.

We were watching a geyser in Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone covers a big part of Wyoming plus parts of Montana and Idaho. Geysers, hot springs, and mud pots fill the park. That's because much of Yellowstone sits in a giant volcano.

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, the volcano at Yellowstone erupted. The explosion was huge. It left a crater in the earth called a caldera. Much of the park is in the caldera.

This is Old Faithful Geyser. Old Faithful erupts about every 90 minutes.

Hot rock lies deep inside the earth. It boils water in the ground. The hottest water becomes steam. The steam forces water up through the ground, making a geyser.

Some geysers shoot water to a height of 200 feet. That's more than twice as tall as the White House.

Snow-white rock, called sinter, covers the ground around the geysers.

**Yellowstone National Park contains a giant volcano. For this reason, geysers, hot springs, and mud pots fill the park.**



Illustrated by David Coulson

4 italicized words

words - 37

A 15

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Sent/A 2.4

words/sent 8.5

Chet/word 4.3

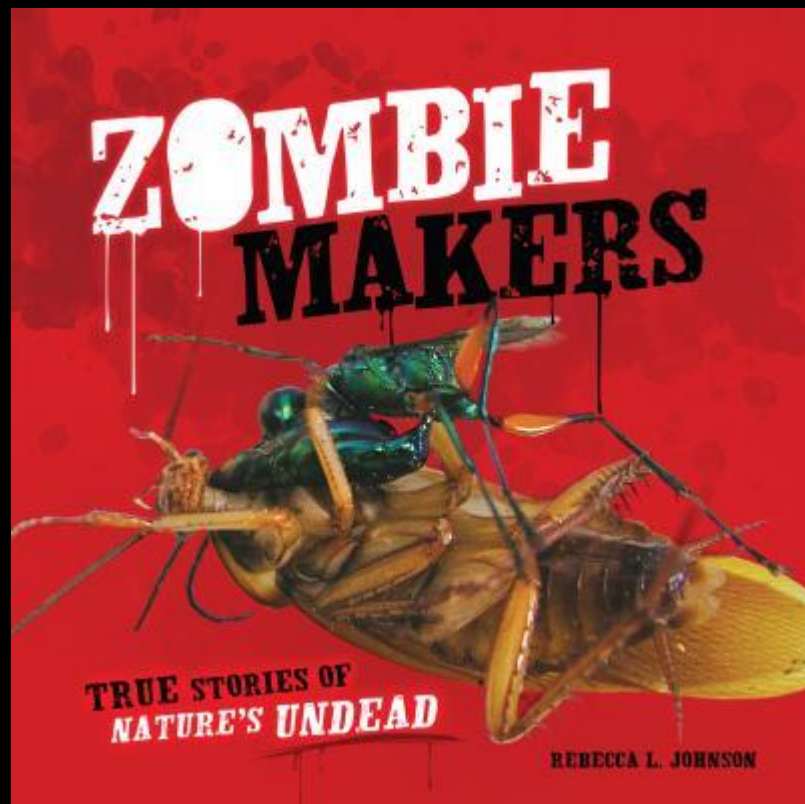
Passive 26

F Reading Exp 81

grade 3.9

19





How do we know? Fossils provide a few clues. Scientists have found tiny scars on 48-million-year-old leaf fossils. The scars look exactly like the marks that modern zombieified carpenter ants make when they **clamp** onto leaves.

Scientists have also found a 105-million year old fossilized insect with fungus inside. Was that fungus a zombie maker? Perhaps. Or maybe it was on its way to becoming one.

Zombie makers are parasites with remarkably fine-tuned weapons. In most cases, these are chemicals that **act** on hosts' brains.

Exactly how this mind control works is still largely a mystery. Through experiments and new discoveries, though, scientists are **finding** answers. They're piecing together the amazing but true stories about nature's undead. About the real zombies – and their makers – that **creep and crawl** and lurk among us.

Readability Statistics		?	Σ
Counts			
Words	220		
Characters	1063		
Paragraphs	5		
Sentences	17		
Averages			
Sentences per Paragraph	4.2		
Words per Sentence	12.8		
Characters per Word	4.5		
Readability			
Passive Sentences	5%		
Flesch Reading Ease	70.5		
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	6.6		
			OK

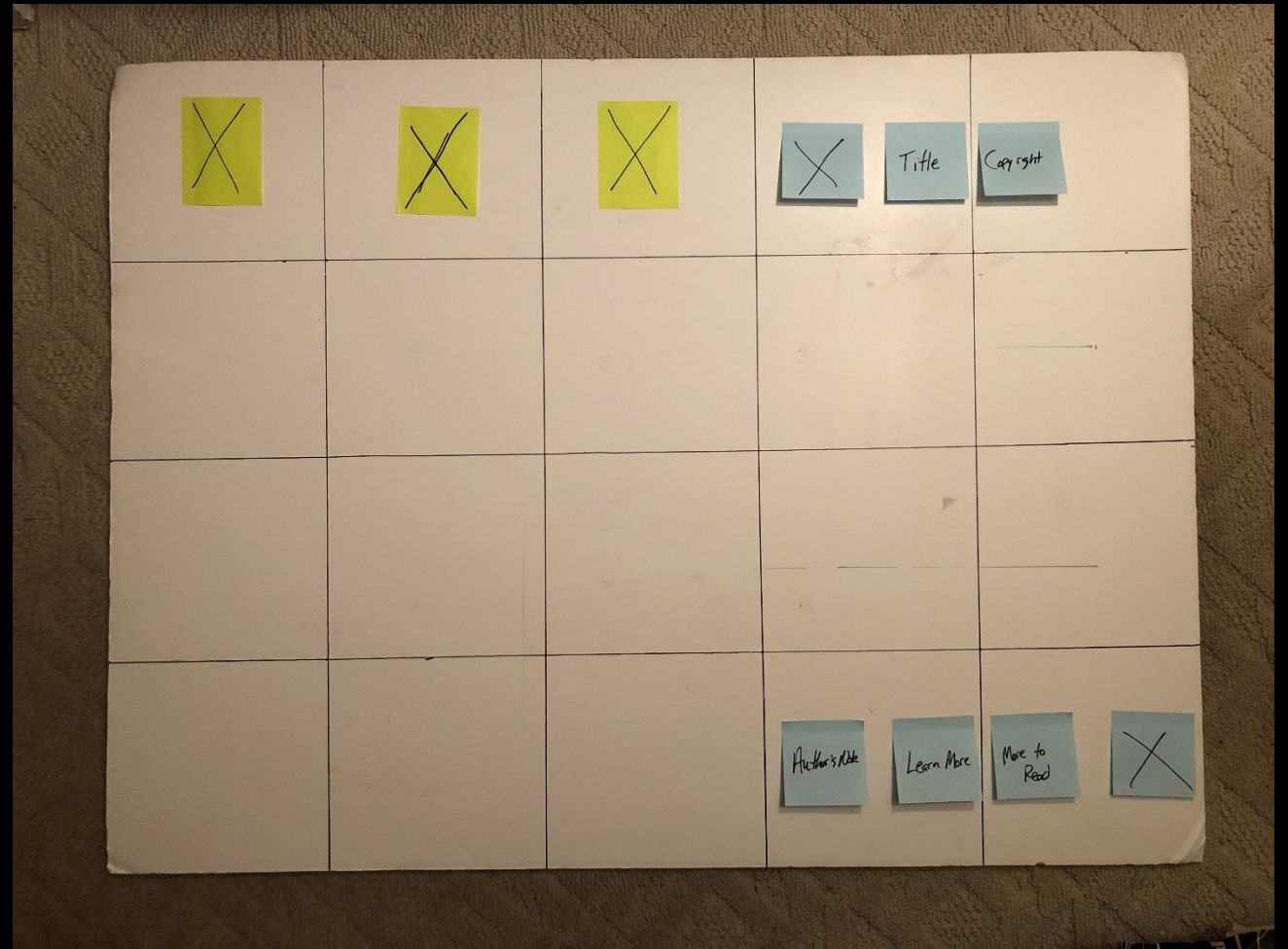


# Industry jargon

Traditional	Work-for-Hire	Board Book	Manuscript	Agent
Self-Publishing	Educational	Picture Book	WIP	Editor
Hybrid	Intellectual Property	Chapter Book	Submission	Art Director
	Test Questions	Middle Grade	Acquisition	
	Fact Checking	Young Adult	Royalty	

# Picture Books are their Own Artform

- 32 Pages
- Need 13+ Illustrative possibilities
- 50/50 Author/Illustrator
- Editors run from rhyme

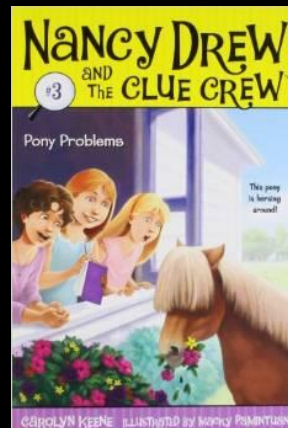
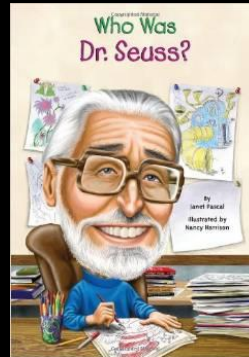
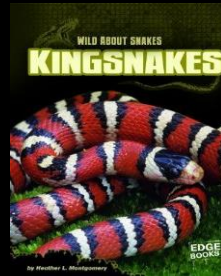
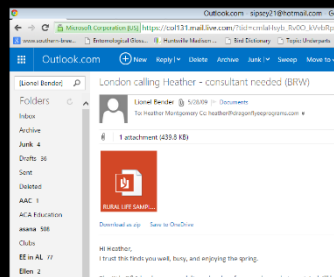
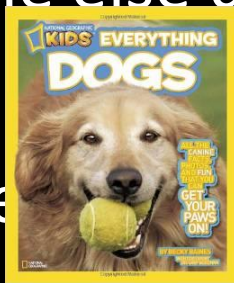
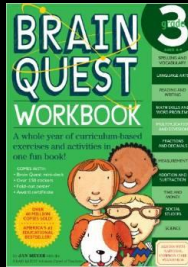




# 4. Plan Your Route

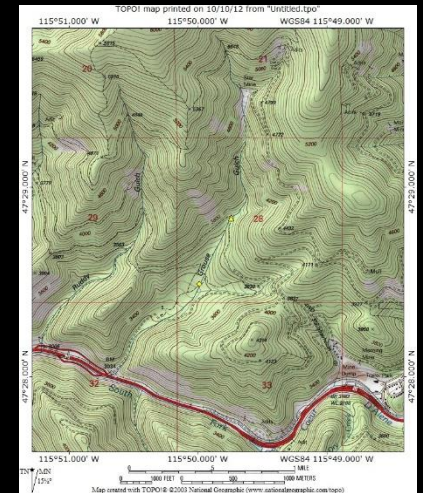
## Work-for-hire

- Bring in some \$\$\$
- Shorter timeline
- Someone else decides

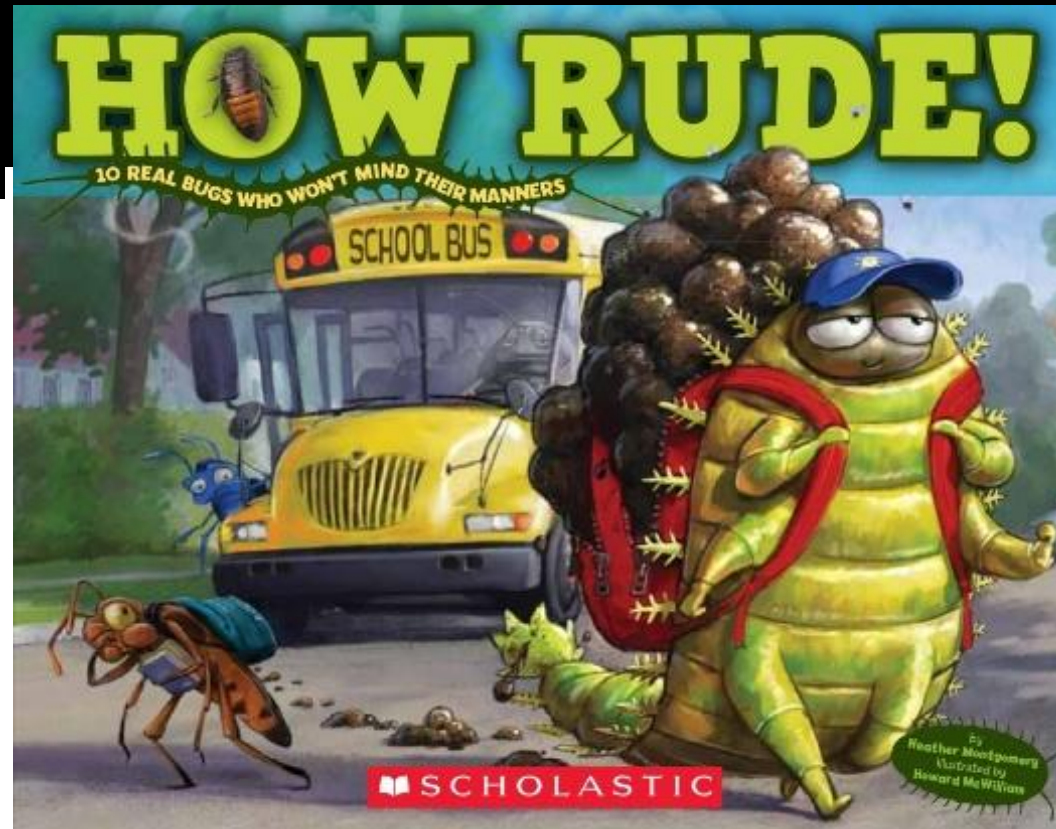


## Trade/Royalties

- Your original work
- More control over rights
- Greater sales opportunities
- Royalties are variable



Write, write and write it again!



2006

June 2014 Aug 2015

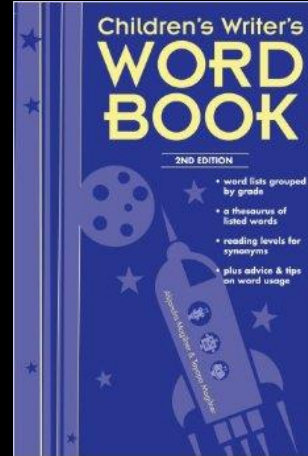
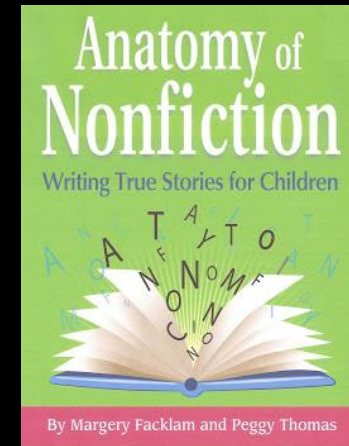
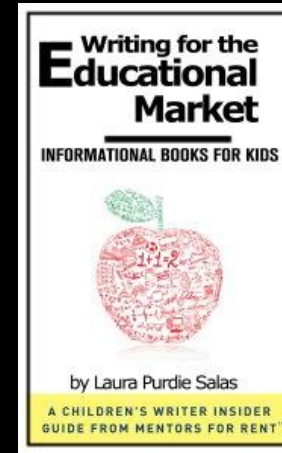


# Work for Hire Leads

- Writing for the Educational Market  
<http://educationwriting.blogspot.com/>
- American Book Producers Association  
<http://abpaonline.org/>
- Harold Underdown on packagers  
<https://www.underdown.org/packaging.htm>
- Evelyn B. Christensen's Educational Markets for Children's Writers plus Children's Magazines  
<http://www.evelynchristensen.com/markets.html>  
<http://www.evelynchristensen.com/mags.html>
- Bender Richardson White  
<http://www.brw.co.uk/>
- Red Line Editorial  
<http://reditorial.com/>

# Some how-to resources

- Laura Purdie Salas, *Writing for the Educational Market*, print or Kindle book:  
<https://mentorsforrent.wordpress.com/ebooks/ed/>
- *Children's Writer's Wordbook*
- Margery Facklam and Peggy Thomas, *Anatomy of Nonfiction: Writing True Stories for Children* and blog  
<http://anatomyofnonfiction.blogspot.com/>
- Highlights Foundation Workshops



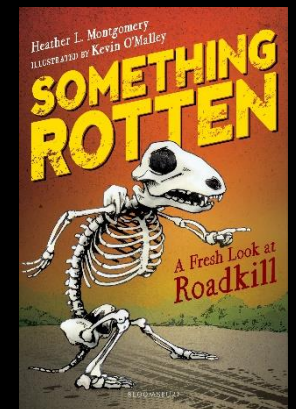
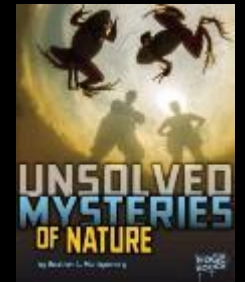
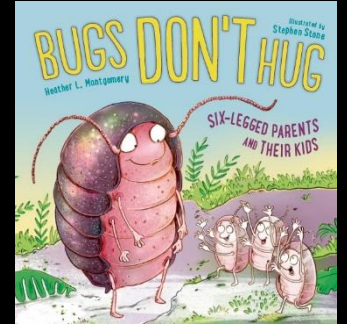


# Trade/Royalty Leads

- Publisher's Marketplace
- Children's Bookshelf
- [www.ManuscriptWishlist.com](http://www.ManuscriptWishlist.com)
- Publisher's Websites
- Conferences and retreats with industry faculty
- Interviews with editors
- Acknowledgment pages

# Submission Process

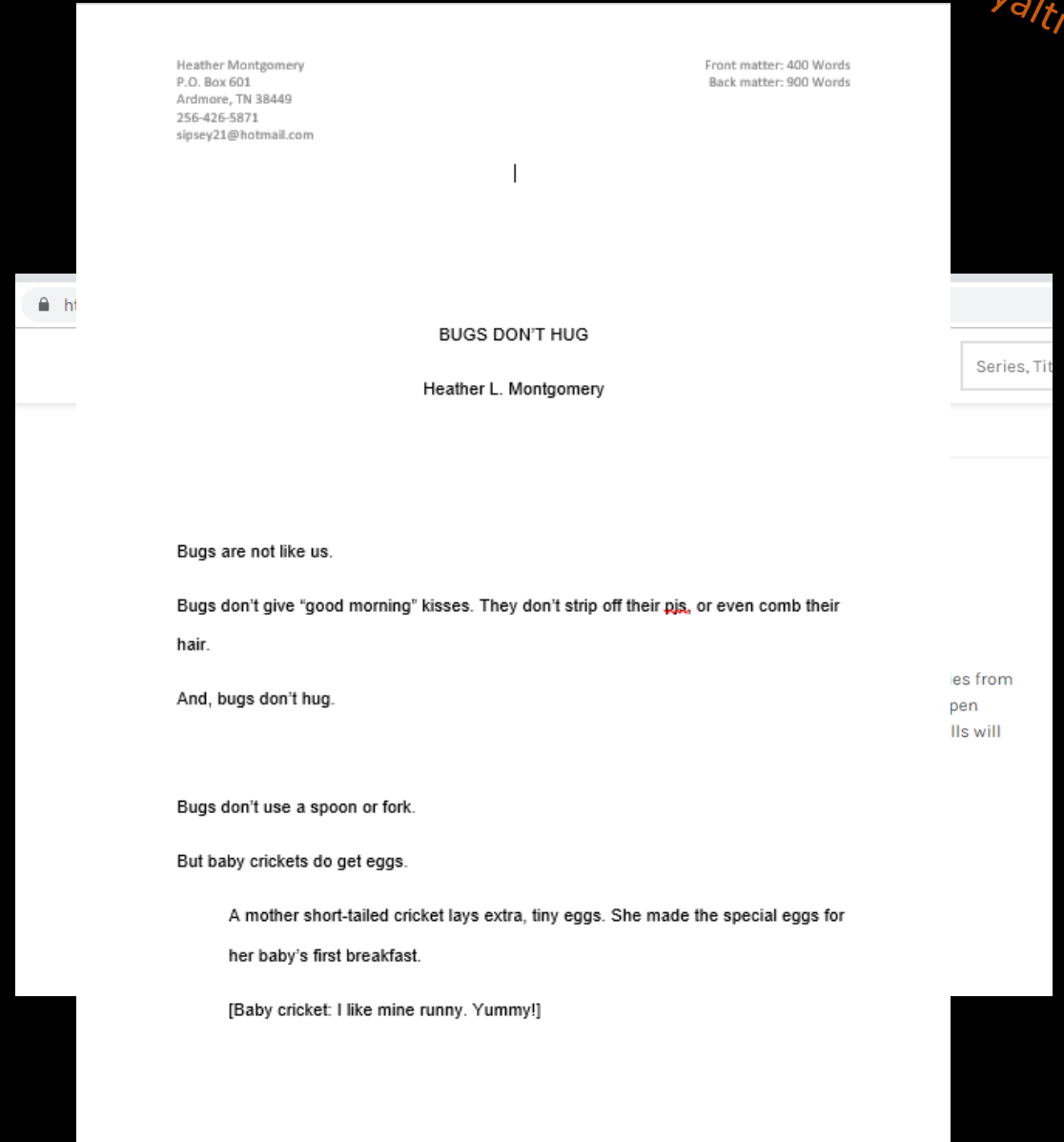
1. Target Agents/Publishers
2. Create Manuscript/Package/Proposal
3. Send out
4. Check-in after 3 months (or as noted on agent/publisher guidelines)
5. For WFH, re-send package every 6 months





# Formatting

- Publisher-specific guidelines
- Industry standards
  - Black, 12-point, Times New Roman or Arial
  - Standard 8.5x11 page
  - Margins of at least 1 inch on all sides
  - Double-spaced
  - Left-justified with .5 inch indent on paragraphs (not tab or spaces)



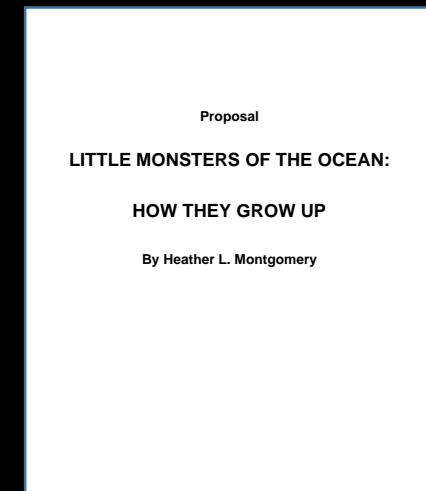
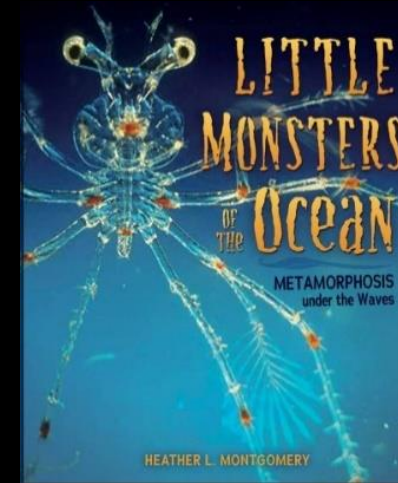
# The Proposal

Includes:

- Overview
- Target Audience/Potential Markets
- Comp Books
- Author Bio/Platform
- Table of Contents
- Sample Chapters (typically 3)

Optional

- Series Potential
- Visuals
- Influencers
- Curriculum Connections





# Just Getting Started...

WILD DISCOVERIES, Montgomery

Not a single creature in this book is "new" to the earth. In fact, most of them have been around longer than humans! ~~but But~~ every one of them *is* new to science! ~~]~~


~~I've included a~~The animals ~~I've included in this book that~~ were officially described between 2007 and 2012. I've also slipped in a few ~~more special cases~~ the glowing ~~fungus mushrooms~~ and ~~bisficola~~ bacteria ~~which~~ aren't animals. ~~They are at all. They~~ ~~are~~ just so cool I couldn't leave them out. 🐾

~~I've highlighted places (like rain forests) where many discoveries are being made.~~ New animals are found in other places too; ~~I simply couldn't fit them all into this one book!~~

~~You'll find basic facts about each animal listed in the sidebar on each page. These facts include an~~the animal's "scientific name," its "classification" ~~(the group of animals it belongs to such as insect or reptile),~~ and its "role in nature." ~~An animal's "role in nature" is basically that animal's job, such as being a predator or carnivore.~~


~~I've added extra tools for you, too.~~ If you run into a word you don't know, the glossary ~~on pages 62-63~~ can help you out. ~~There are also a maps in each section on each section's opening page~~ to show you where ~~the each creature~~s ~~was in that section were~~ found.

~~Now, get start reading already so you can help me search for new weird~~ ~~animals discovering new animals of your own! Which do you think one do you think is the wackiest??~~ I'm having a tough time deciding...


**katiecar**

I changed these names here so we're consistent with how they are listed in the table of contents.


THANKS! - HLM

**user1**


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**user1**

I THINK THIS GIVES ENOUGH INFO, DON'T YOU? I WAS CONCERNED THAT BEFORE THEY HAVE READ ANY OF THE SECTION OPENING PAGES, THAT MIGHT CONFUSE THEM. - HLM

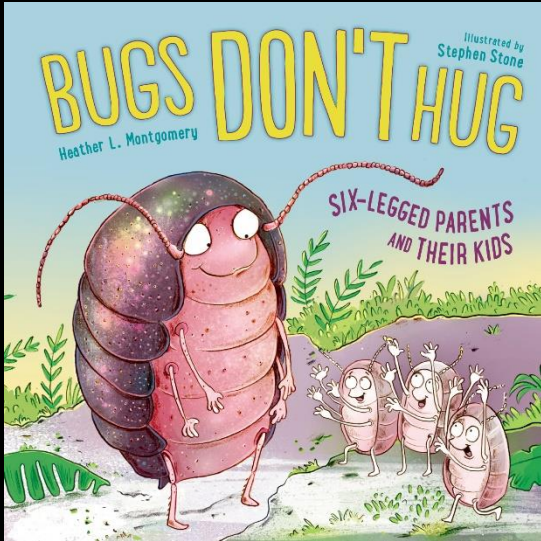
**katiecar**

Please reword to come up with a peppy closing. Or move a variation of the sentence I deleted above to here (join me...on the search for new animals?)

**user1**

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# And About Those Illustrations...



“Bugs aren’t like us.”

“Bugs ~~aren’t~~ are like us.”





ot  
ie

**LARVA**

EGG

**NYPH**

ADULT

## Behavior?

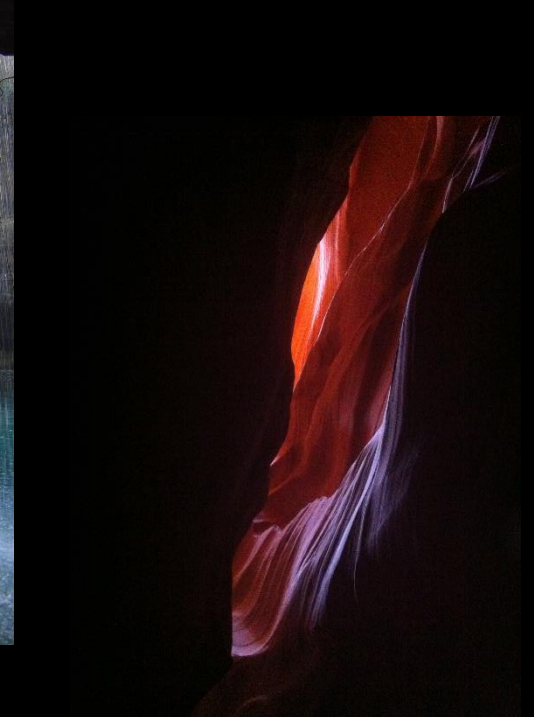
“bad” or even “rude.” Those are values that people have assigned to certain behaviors. Manners so that we can get along with one another. Insects don't need to be polite, but they do use who survive pass their traits on to the next generation — a generation of bug kids who are their parents!

## THE REAL DEAL:





## 5. Enjoy the Journey (Don't sit around and wait)





A wide-angle photograph of a mountain trail. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by a steep, grassy slope covered in vibrant red and yellow wildflowers. Two hikers with backpacks are visible on the trail, moving away from the camera. The background features a deep valley with a rocky stream bed, surrounded by dense evergreen forests. In the distance, snow-capped mountain peaks are visible under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day.

See You on the trail!