

QUERY WRITING MADLIB

Quick Notes

1. For querying, I prefer agent Carly Watters's 'Hook, Book, Cook' method.
2. You can hear fabulous samples and critiques of what to do and not to do on the podcast "The Shit No One Tells You About Writing."
3. Do NOT simply fill out the Madlib and submit. You should go through several drafts of any query, but this tool can act as a springboard, reminding you of key points.
4. For clarity and easy reading, I've listed elements of the paragraph as individual bullet points, but you would want to form the query into three distinct paragraphs. For the second paragraph, I've also asked questions instead of fill-in-the-blanks since each project is so unique.
5. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at kristenbirdwrites@gmail.com to set up a free 20-minute consultation or to work with me on your pitch package.

Paragraph 1: The Agent & Your Project

- Dear (Agent),
- I read/heard/saw that you enjoy stories about X topic (ex: family saga, high adventure, a specific historical time period). OR represent X author, and my novel is (show how it relates to the agent's interests).
- I'm excited to reach out to you/contact you/tell you about my #K-word genre novel, NAME OF BOOK, written in the vein of comp title meets comp title.

Paragraph 2: Protagonist & Plot

Questions to consider:

- Who: Who is your protagonist? What is their normal life? Do they have a distinct job/role?
- What: What happens to disrupt, change, or impact the protagonist's life? (You probably don't want to name more than 2-3 characters, and naming only 1 is fine!) What is the character's primary motivation and goal?
- Where: Where is this novel set?
- When: When is the novel set? How much time passes in the novel?
- Why: Why does the character need to achieve their goal?

- How: How does the plot resolve (no need to give away big spoilers)? How does the character grow/change?

Paragraph 3: Personal Details

Possible Details to include:

- I've had projects published with name of publication/journal/website.
- I work as a job that is relevant to your writing.
- I'm interested in/have researched topic.
- I enjoy hobby or fun fact.

www.kristenbird.com

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Email me at kristenbirdwrites@gmail.com for a free 20-minute consultation.
