Mary Kole is a freelance editor, author and blogger whose goal is to help writers of children’s literature create compelling stories for young readers. A former California and New York literary agent for the Andrea Brown Literary Agency and Movable Type Literary, she received an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of San Francisco and interned in the children’s editorial department at Chronicle Books. Mary has spoken at over 75 writer’s conferences and workshops across the world, has been deeply involved with organizations including the SCBWI, Writer’s Digest, and NaNoWriMo. She has recently been teaching the concept of interiority almost exclusively.

Her blog on children’s writing and publishing, Kidlit.com, receives an average of 17,000 hits per month. It has been named one of the “101 Best Websites for Writers” by Writer’s Digest every year since its inception in 2009. Her book, Writing Irresistible Kidlit (Writer’s Digest Books, 2012) has sold 11,000 copies and is rated 5 ★ on Amazon.com. Mary has also worked as a freelance writer for newspapers and magazines, including the Los Angeles Times, and was named one of 20 writers to follow on Twitter in 2017. She currently works as a freelance editor with over 500 clients per year. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband and son.

EDITORIAL SERVICE TESTIMONIALS

“Mary is a one-woman MFA program.”
KIM W

“I had several ‘a-ha’ moments while reading your feedback ... I highly recommend your services.”
ALLISON MORGAN, AUTHOR OF THE SOMEDAY JAR

“If you are lucky enough to have Mary Kole read your manuscript you will find yourself in the hands of a gifted editor.”
CYNTHIA WETZLER, NEW YORK TIMES WRITER

“As the author of Writing Irresistible Kidlit, she knows what goes into a great kids’ book.”
STACIE LAYNE WILSON, SCREENWRITER AND FILMMAKER

“Mary got me one of the best agents in the business! Okay, okay, that’s not strictly true—I did actually write the stuff myself, but I did it with the help of Mary’s editing services. After working with her on several manuscripts, I signed with my dream rep. Mary’s critiques continue to help me—I now apply her advice to every story I write and it’s really working!”
FRANZISKA G.

“It genuinely feels like you’ve handed me a golden compass so I can trek off in the right direction now to ultimately find buried treasure.”
KENDRA