**Example Query Letters:**

Dear (Agent Name),

Eleven-year-old Ruthless will do whatever it takes to live up to her name. Slaughtering pirates, running an underground gambling operation, and intercepting Russian spies are just a few examples.

In true Ruthless fashion, she claims the title of student body president, but her aspirations are cut short after getting in trouble. Not letting that stand in her way, she runs for Mayor with the help of her pudgy, yet strong friend Owen. Her town of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has no age requirement to run for Mayor. The chances of a child winning are slim, to say the least, so Ruthless and Owen disguise themselves as an adult with the good old “two kids in a trench coat” ruse.

Throughout the campaign, she shockingly rises in the polls… that is until her secret is discovered and she is humiliated on live television. Unbeknownst to her, Ruthless’s unveiling has darker consequences that invite the turmoil of her mother’s past back to haunt her. When the traumas of the adult world come down on Ruthless, she must learn how to live with her new reality and ultimately use it to turn her life into a success story and live up to her name.

A GIRL CALLED RUTHLESS is a Middle-Grade Novel completed at 59,000 words. It will appeal to fans of THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF COYOTE SUNRISE by Dan Gemeinhart and THE CAMPAIGN by Leila Sales.

I live in sunny Florida with my husband and my corgi, Gatsby. I am a self-published children’s book author with over 2,000 copies sold of my books in the first two years. I am also an elementary school teacher and love to teach my students the wonders of writing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melody Pendlebury

Dear (Agent Name),

Furry-amphibians, rock giants, lone vigilantes, these are just a few examples of the mystical characters Rose Blandheart has imagined through her writing.

A STORY UNFINISHED is a middle-grade novel completed at 40,000-words. It will appeal to fans of *Wildwood* by Colin Meloy, *The Kingdom of Back* by Marie Lu, and *The Whispers* by Greg Howard due to their similarities of fantastical characters, quests, and relationships.

Twelve-year-old Rose uses the creation of imaginary worlds to escape from her parent's nasty divorce and her paralyzing self-doubt. Although she loves writing, she doesn’t feel particularly talented and can never gather enough confidence to finish her stories. Just when she thinks her life can’t get any more complicated, she loses her journal and discovers one of her fictional characters hopping through the school courtyard.

She follows it through the forest to discover all her imagined creatures have leapt straight from the pages and into the real world. She now must find a way to get them back where they came from before they completely disappear from the real *and* imaginary world, but not all of the characters are too happy about returning to their stories. Mother Magdala, one of Rose’s soul-sucking characters, has found a way to stay permanently, but at the expense of the people Rose loves. With the help of her new fictional friends and her crush Emily, Rose must find her journal, finish her stories, and accept every part of herself.

I live in sunny Florida with my husband and corgi. My debut novel, A GIRL CALLED RUTHLESS, was published with Darkstroke Publishing in August 2021. It is a number-one bestseller and winner of the 2021 Reader’s Choice Award. I am also a reading and writing teacher and love to teach my students the wonders of literature. I am a big fan of some of your clients and would love to work with you to bring this story to life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melody Pendlebury

**Template:**

Dear (Agent Name)

Catchy Hook

Introduce the genre, word count and comparable titles comparable titles (this could also be talked about the end of the letter)

Introduce the main character, the inciting incident, the stakes and a teaser for what could happen at the end

Introduce yourself and any information about your writing career

Synopsis Examples:

Eleven-year-old Ruthless is in a constant need to live up to her name. Her first plan of action is to claim the title of student-body-president even though the title does not exist at her school. She and her best friend, Owen, accomplish this task and set out to make big changes. One of these big changes teeter on the side of vandalism and her nervous single-mother makes her give up her title.

Ruthless doesn’t let this hold her down for too long and takes action after discovering a beloved tree is at risk of being cut down. After a disappointing meeting with slimy Mayor Lankford, Ruthless decides that the only option to save the tree is to run for Mayor.

In Baton Rouge Louisiana, there is no age requirement to run for Mayor. The chances of a child winning are slim, to say the least, so Ruthless and Owen disguise themselves as an adult with the good old “two kids in a trench coat” ruse.

Throughout the campaign, she shockingly rises in the polls thanks to the help of her campaign manager, Geoffrey, and her adult best friend and neighbor, Daisy. That is until her secret is discovered and she is humiliated on live television.

 Her father, which she has never met or knew existed, sees Ruthless and her mother trying to bustle off the stage during the televised broadcast of Ruthless' reveal and makes his way to Baton Rouge Louisiana. After locating their residence, he kills her mother while Ruthless is at school. Now parentless, Ruthless is in the custody of Daisy. Ruthless now has to deal with the guilt of her stunt and its indirect cause to her mother's death.

After some time of mourning, Ruthless' archenemy, Mayor Lankford, apologizes for exposing her secret and reveals that he has dedicated her beloved tree in her mother's honor. The two become fast friends and Mayor Lankford eventually secures her a full-ride scholarship at a prestigious boarding school that is known for its political graduates.

We meet twelve-year-old Rose after she is brought back to reality from her writing when her mother calls her to breakfast.

Rose loves to write vivid and magical characters but never has enough confidence to finish a single story. With her parent’s nasty divorce and the preparation for a move from her childhood home, Rose can’t imagine things getting any worse. That is until her journal of unfinished stories is taken away in class. Soon after she discovers that her teacher has lost her journal. Although devastated, things get even more complicated after Rose witnesses one of her imaginary characters, a Ziggabob, through the classroom window. She decides that she must investigate and braves following the Ziggabob into the woods.

The Ziggabob leads Rose into a clearing with a motley crew of all of the characters she has ever written. Among them is an oracle who reveals the reason the characters are there is because Rose never finished any of their stories, and worse if they aren’t finished soon all the characters will soon disappear from the real *and* imaginary worlds.

At first terrified, Rose soon befriends Ambrosia, the Lone Vigilante, and Brock, the rock giant, who plan to help Rose find her missing journal.

The pressure becomes greater once Rose meets another one of her characters, Mother Magdala, the *sucker of feelings*, who is set on staying in the real world. Magdala has figured out she becomes more human and won’t disappear as long as she consumes a person’s feelings. In order to get her hands on the journal so she never has to return, Mother Magdala takes the feelings of Rose’s mother and her best friend Oliver.  After another visit to the oracle, Rose and her friends discover Mother Magdala was able to get the ant people - another one of Rose’s creations - to build her a castle. The oracle reveals that the journal is in the castle, and the crew sets off to retrieve it.

Once they get into the castle, they discover Mother Magdala has been expecting them. Mother Magdala says she will give Rose her journal if she agrees to follow her somewhere alone. Rose reluctantly agrees and is led to an unknown house. There she discovers her father and his new family, tied up and under a sleeping spell. Magdala proposes a trade of Rose’s dad “being” so she can live forever. In return, Rose can have her journal back to finish her friends’ stories and she will never feel the pain her dad caused her.

Rose discovers that these new conditions to Magdala’s magic are from a story she wrote when she was a little kid. She realizes that the magic was never in the journal but in the power of her words. Rose defeats Magdala by finishing her story and learning that pain is not the enemy. She finally gained the confidence to finish all of her stories and is hopeful about her future.

On a walk to school, Rose sees someone who looks a lot like Ambrosia waving from a greyhound bus. She realizes her story isn’t yet finished, and maybe Ambrosia’s isn’t either.