

## ***Fiction word counts.***

The question seems to come up often: How long should my book be; what's appropriate, what's considered "standard?" It varies according to what genre you're writing and who you're writing for. One answer that often crops up is "enough to tell the story." Well, duh! But, beyond that, we all need to know what we're shooting for. Below you'll find tables with what are considered to be "industry standards."

Micro-Fiction	Up to 100
Flash Fiction	100 to 500
Short-Short Story	750 to 1,000
Short Story	1,000 to 7,500
Novelette	7,500 to 20,000
Novella	20,000 to 50,000
Novel	50,000 to 100,000
Saga or Epic	100,000 to 110,000

Just as content standards are different for Middle Grade, YA, and children's books, so are their word counts.

Picture Books	500 to 1,000
Middle Grade	20,000 to 35,000
Upper-Middle Grade	20,000 to 55,000
Young Adult	55,000 to 69,000

There are also differences in length for genres.

Western	50,000 to 80,000
Sci-fi / Fantasy	100,000 to 115,000
Memoir	80,000 to 90,000

Those are considered "ideal" lengths and there are exceptions, of course. Always check the guidelines of the agent or publisher. Though I did a lot of research surfing, the following two resources had the info all in one place and the counts were culled from their posts.

"Word Count for Novels and Children's Books: The Definitive Post," by Chuck Sambuchino, published October 24, 2012 on [Writer's Digest.com](http://Writer's Digest.com)

and

"How Long Should Your Story Be?," by Lee Masterson, on [fictionfactor.com](http://fictionfactor.com), *The Online Magazine for Fiction Writers*, © 2000-2011.