I. Premise
1. What if…? Combine two unrelated things.
2. Test it. Is it original? Interesting? Realistic? Does it have conflict?
3. Does it give your characters overall goals to accomplish or fight against?

II. Characters (Creating the Hero and Villain)
1. Know more than their looks (Internal and external motivation, backstory, love language)
2. Are they likable: too good? Too evil?
3. Do their motivations clash with other characters to create conflict?

III. Plot
1. Three-Act Structure (Five sentences: beginning, major plot point for acts 1, 2, and 3, and ending.)

IV. Theme
1. What makes a novel Christian?
   a. Says something profound about the human condition
   b. Allegory
   c. Issue-based
   d. Asks a question

IV. Write it! (Sit down and write that book until you are done!)

V. Watch out for… Try to weed out:
1. Description (Too much, too little)
2. Exposition (Backstory)
3. Creating confusion
4. Voice- impossible pronunciations, grammar that’s not you

VI. Keep it real
1. Stay within your own world (No Jonas Brothers in Star Wars)
   a. Rhetoric- (Check your similes and metaphors. The “deer in the headlights” metaphor doesn’t work in a medieval fantasy world without electricity.)
   b. Dialogue- (Keep your lingo realistic for your characters and your storyworld.)
2. Stay within your own rules

VII. The Publication Process
1. Finish the book!
2. Rewrite the book! (“Books aren’t written—they’re rewritten. Including your own. It is one of the hardest things to accept, especially after the seventh rewrite hasn’t quite done it.” —Michael Crichton)
3. Find a critique group
4. Attend a major writer’s conference
5. Before you submit, read submissions guidelines for:
   a. Publishing Houses
   b. Agents
   c. Writer’s Conferences
6. Rejections (You will get rejected, so celebrate them as a step that brings you closer to publication.)
7. Rewrite request (Publishers may ask you to change your book.)
8. Acceptance (the contract, payment, edits, marketing, book two?, the reality of it all)

Always ask yourself, “Is this realistic? Does is work?”

Need help? Visit www.teenageauthor.com or find us on Facebook.
Test your Christian Teen Fiction Knowledge
Presenter: Jill Williamson
www.jillwilliamson.com

1. What hides behind the doors in the attic in Robert Liparulo’s *House of Dark Shadows (DreamHouse Kings, book 1)*?
   a. demons; b. Dreamland; c. different king’s homes; d. portals through time

2. *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* series was written by which author?

3. In Ted Dekker’s Circle series and The Lost Books series, what is Thomas Hunter’s special ability?
   a. telepathy; b. shape shifting; c. traveling between two worlds; d. hunting

4. In Jill Williamson’s *By Darkness Hid* *(Blood of Kings, book 1)*, a stray is a what?
   a. an animal without a home; b. a slave without a master; c. an orphan; d. a person who has turned from the One God

5. In Jenny B. Jones’ novel, *In Between*, Grandma Maxine uses what for transportation?
   a. Pink Cadillac; b. Bicycle built for two; c. Harley; d. Hummer

6. How many earths are there in Bryan Davis’ *Echoes from the Edge* series?
   a. one; b. two; c. three; d. four

7. In Donita K. Paul’s *DragonSpell*, what is Gymn’s quirk?
   a. he faints; b. he tells jokes; c. he chews his tail; d. he flies upside down

8. In Andrew Peterson’s *North! Or Be Eaten* *(Wingfeather Saga, book 1)*, what are the Jewels of Anaria?
   a. books that hold the Maker’s words; b. children; c. a massive pirate treasure; d. People who live on Jewel Island in the Dark Sea of Darkness

9. In Frank Peretti’s *Hangman’s Curse*, what creature’s venom is inflicting comas in certain high school students?
   a. scorpions; b. wasps; c. vipers; d. spiders

    a. a food stylist; b. a movie director; c. an actress; d. a costume designer

11. Bill Myers wrote what series that has sold over a million copies. Which is it?
    a. The Diary of a Wimpy Kid; b. The Incredible World of Wally McDoole; c. Mc Gee and Me; d. The Cooper Kids Adventures

12. Which author penned two Christian pirate novel for teens *(Isle of Swords and Isle of Fire)*?

13. Which author’s entire young adult series made the Christian Booksellers Association bestseller list? (And for an extra pat on the back, name the series.)
    a. Jenny Jones; b. Ted Dekker; c. C. S. Lewis; d. Melody Carlson

Answers: 1. d; 2. a; 3. c; 4. c; 5. b; 6. c; 7. a; 8. b; 9. d; 10. a; 11. b; 12. c; 13. b