**Writers’ Rights**

***Book Rights***

Rights to a book are spelled out in the contract. The book may be copyrighted in either the author or publisher’s name.

***First Rights, First Serial Rights, First North American Serial Rights***

The writer sells a publication the right to print the work for the first time. Rights to the piece automatically revert to the writer once the piece is published unless otherwise stated in a contract.

***One-time Rights, Simultaneous Rights***

The writer sells one or more publications the right to print the work one time but not necessarily the first time. It may be published simultaneously by markets in different geographic locations, such as newspapers, or at different times by markets with non-overlapping readership, such as denominational publications.

***All Rights, Exclusive Rights, Work for Hire***

The writer sells all rights to the piece to the publisher and no longer owns any rights to the work. In all rights, those rights will revert to the writer after thirty-five years. In work for hire, they do not revert to writer. Most writers avoid selling these.

Adapted from *Sally Stuart’s Guide to Getting Published* (Waterbrook, 1999) Used by permission.