

The 2019 PBChat Mentorship

Visit justincolonbooks.com for more info.

Official Rules

The purpose of the PBChat Mentorship contest is to offer free mentorships that help writers and illustrators on their path to traditional publication of their picture books and/or chapter books. This is an educational opportunity and the mentors are not offering access to their agents, editors, or other contacts.

Contestants may apply to up to four mentors. Each and every mentor will independently evaluate each of the applications they receive and pick one applicant to work with as their mentee. Once selected, each mentor and their respective mentee will determine the structure and format of their mentorship together: frequency and method of communication, materials worked on, goals, plan of action, timeline, etc. The mentorships will run from August 1 through November 1, 2019 (unless otherwise noted on the mentor's questionnaire).

If upon reading the entirety of this document you have unanswered, rule-related questions, please email me at Justin@justincolonbooks.com

Eligibility:

The ideal applicant is a career-focused author or author/illustrator of picture books and/or chapter books who is actively working toward traditional publication. They belong to at least one, active critique group, participate in classes, conferences, and/or workshops, and are active in the kidlit community. They have at least three complete picture book manuscripts or dummies and/or an online portfolio.

Eligible applicants may apply to the mentorship with only one complete manuscript under their belt; however, mentors may request additional manuscripts in addition to the one you've submitted if they're interested in working with you. You may submit a different manuscript to each of the mentors you submit to; however, you may submit no more than one manuscript to any mentor, unless specifically requested by the mentor after the initial round of submissions, otherwise you will be disqualified. One you submit your entry, you may not send an updated one.

To be eligible, contestants must meet all of the following requirements: 1) be un-agented 2) not have been traditionally published in any format (as an author, illustrator, or author/illustrator) for any market (excluding the educational market) 3) not have a book under contract 4) not have been mentored as part of a publishing/writing-related mentorship (that was contest-based) for picture books within the past year (or be a current or upcoming mentee for another publishing/writing-related mentorship for any audience or genre). Paid Mentorships are permitted so long as you are not participating in a paid

The 2019 PBChat Mentorship

Visit justincolonbooks.com for more info.

mentorship that will run simultaneously (at any point) with the PBChat Mentorship. Applicants who do not meet all eligibility requirements will be disqualified.

Note: You are still eligible to apply if you have self-published work and/or published stories in magazines. However, you must be seeking and working toward traditional publication of your picture books and/or chapter books to be eligible for this mentorship.

The application window is June 26, 2019 through midnight July 15, 2019 EST. You may apply to up to four mentors; ultimately you can only work with one should you be selected for a mentorship. You can tailor your application and manuscript to each of the mentors you apply to.

Winners will be announced via Twitter (@justinrcolon), the PBChat section of justincolonbooks.com, and email. If you wish to receive the email with the announcement of winners please subscribe to the PBChat mailing list here: <http://justincolonbooks.com/pbchat/> Please use the contest hashtag, PBChat, for all related posts on Twitter.

Please note that I, Justin Colon, reserve the right to read your applications and manuscripts. I will use none of your ideas, and your contest submissions will be deleted post-contest. I may read applications and manuscripts to ensure that applicants meet all eligibility requirements and have followed the rules. In addition, I may read your submissions to present [especially] impressive applicants of my choosing with additional opportunities beyond the mentorship should they not be chosen for a mentorship this year.

How to Apply:

Note: Your manuscripts must be formatted and saved as Word or PDF attachments only.

Picture book manuscripts that are fiction must be under 800 words (preferably under 500), and non-fiction manuscripts must be under 1000 words. Back matter and illustration notes are permitted and do not count toward your word count.

- 1) Please complete the online application form, located here: <https://form.jotform.com/91753323600147>
- 2) At the end of the application, you'll be asked to attach your manuscript. Please save and attach the document as: 'Mentor'sLastName_YourLastNamePBChat_Mentorship'.
E.g. Calvert_Colon_PBChat_Mentorship

The 2019 PBChat Mentorship

Visit justincolonbooks.com for more info.

Author-Illustrators Only: You may submit a dummy with your manuscript. Please limit it to 15 MB and 72 dpi.

3) You may complete up to four applications total, one for each mentor.

Note: You will receive an automated response confirming receipt of your email. Within this email, you will receive a copy of your completed application form. You may copy and paste the responses from your completed form into your following applications and tailor your responses according to the mentor you're applying to. You may also submit a different manuscript to each mentor.

“Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience.” Paulo Coelho