

The 2019 #PBChat Mentorship

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Lynne Marie has a passion for learning and discovering -- whether it's in graveyards, zoos or fascinating places around the world! She's the author of *Hedgehog Goes to Kindergarten*, illustrated by Anne Kennedy (Scholastic, 2011); *Hedgehog's 100th Day of School*, illustrated by Lorna Hussey (Scholastic, 2017) -- both inspired by her pet hedgehogs; *The Star in the Christmas Play*, illustrated by Lorna Hussey (Beaming Books, 2018); *Moldilocks and the 3 Scares*, illustrated by David Rodriguez Lorenzo (Sterling, 2019), and *Let's Eat: Mealtime Around the World* (Beaming Books, 2019). When she's not exploring, she lives on a lake in South Florida with her family, a Schipperke named Anakin and several resident water birds. Learn more about her critiques at www.thepicturebookmechanic.com (coming soon) and her books at www.LiterallyLynneMarie.com.

LYNNE MARIE will be accepting applications for: Fiction Picture Books.

Special Note: The mentorship with Lynne Marie will begin August 15.

1. If you had to wear the same t-shirt with one word on it for a year, what word would you choose?

Imagine.

2. If you had your own talk show, who would your first three guests be? Bonus points for sharing the name of your show and what it would be about.

As far back as high school, I wanted to have my own talk show entitled EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN, inspired by the Barbra Streisand Song, "Everything" from the third iteration of "A Star is Born," starring Barbra and Kris Kristofferson. It would be about anything and everything -- history, art, culture, literature, travel, fashion, pop culture, science, technology. Anything that's relevant to enjoying a good life on this planet, spreading kindness, preserving wildlife and the environment and healthy living.

My first guest would be Robert Downey Jr. because I still can't get over the end of End Game...

My second guest would be Jane Goodall, because of her amazing work with animals.

My third guest would be Leighton H. Coleman, relative of the Speddens who were First Class Passengers on the Titanic, to talk about his book, *Polar the Titanic Bear*.

3. If you could instantly become an expert in something (non-writing-related), what would it be and why?

Forensic Psychology because it is absolutely fascinating. Or a zoologist because I LOVE animals.

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4. What are your five favorite picture books not written and/or illustrated by you?

Well, this is more the flavor of the month because I LOVE just so many picture books, so I'll just list the last five that I purchased and that'll be that.

- a) A Place for Pluto by Stef Wade, illustrated by Melanie Demmer
- b) Mary Had a Little Lab by Sue Fliess, illustrated by Petros Bouloubasis
- c) The Boy Who Grew a Forest - the story of Jadav Payeng by Sophie Gholz, illustrated by Kayla Harren
- d) Rosie and Charlie Make Waves by Lauren Heller Kerstein, illustrated by Nate Wragg
- e) Ten Rules of the Birthday Wish by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Tom Litchenheld

5. What is the toughest feedback you've ever received?

That my book, Fowl Humor, would never sell, because it was about a turkey that's trying to survive Thanksgiving dinner by using his funny bone. But these kind of books have sold before, and I believe they will again. And thankfully, it's not just about that.

6. What are some of the most important lessons [in creating and/or publishing, or even life in general] you've learned so far?

Learn the lessons, pick yourself up, dust yourself off and keep moving forward.

7. What writing-related accomplishment are you most proud of?

Publishing all five of my books despite all the hardships I have suffered before, during and after.

8. What are your dreams and goals as an author?

To keep writing and publishing so that I can sustain myself as a children's author and only work with my current travel clients without having to take on new ones, except by recommendations, or if I want to :).

9. What are your strengths as a mentor?

My strengths definitely lie in structure and plot, but I am strong in language and expression as well. I'm good at problem-solving why a story doesn't work and coming up with ideas to make it work.

10. Who are you not the best mentor for?

Anyone who just wants a back pat and doesn't want to read, write, revise and reVISION (and read, write, revise and reVISION again -- as many times as it takes) the work it takes to become a storyteller.

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11. What are the most important things you're seeking in a mentee?

Someone with a thick skin who can roll up their sleeves and see feedback for what it is worth -- that with all my heart I want to see the mentee succeed and sometimes that might mean trying something on for size that the mentee didn't intend. Plus -- there's nothing to lose. Everything is great practice and you can always change something back if it truly doesn't work. But it's important to be able to play around with your story to find what actually does work.

12. What is your feedback/critique style like?

My critique service is called The Picture Book Mechanic because my style is to roll up my sleeves, put my head under the hood and find why the manuscript isn't running. I try to find what's broke and identify the parts that are needed to fix it.

13. During the mentorship, how will you help your mentee and their stories develop?

By recommending ways to improve on craft and critiquing stories.

14. What type of relationship do you hope to establish with your mentee?

A continued relationship and friendship that will endure past the mentorship session.

15. What is your style of communication like?

Honest but supportive.

16. While reading prospective mentee's manuscripts, what do you hope to experience?

I hope to feel heart and experience humor and see imagination.

17. What will you look for in the applications you receive?

Imagination :)

18. What about the idea of mentoring excites you most?

I love being part of building stories and careers!

19. Is there anything, author-related, you wish people would ask you about? If so, what, and how would you respond?

I think I would like a person to ask me, not how did I get published (usually this type of person is looking for a quick way to do so or perhaps to emulate the circumstances if they were quick), but how did I learn to write publishable stories. I think there's a big difference in the answers to those questions.

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I wish people would ask more about what craft books they should be reading -- everything that comes to mind -- almost anything but where can I send my manuscript. Because 99% of the time the manuscript isn't even ready to send out anywhere.

20. What advice or inspiring and/or motivational words would you like to offer up to anyone applying to be your mentee or simply reading this questionnaire?

Believe in yourself, invest in yourself (classes, conferences, critiques) and do the work. And I mean work. Read, read, read. Write, write, write. Revise, revise, revise. ReVISION, reVISION, reVISION. And if you can do that, you can do this! Good luck!