



Mechal Renee Roe is a former Childrenswear Designer turned Author/Illustrator. After her corporate career, she traveled the country with her self-published books, *Happy Hair & Cool Cuts* for several years until fate connected her with her agent James and editor Frances. She would later illustrate Kamala Harris' book, *"Superheroes Are Everywhere"* and garner a NYT Bestselling illustrator credit. Because of her unique route into publishing, she appreciates the "beginner's journey" and can't wait to help others!

Mechal will be accepting applications for: a writer of fiction, rhyme, & illustration etc. self-pub/under-represented artists a bonus

1. If you could be in any movie or tv series, what would it be and what character would you play?

I would be in the show *Community* as Troy's nerdy yet wise sister. I would often join them for "Troy & Abed in the Morning".

2. If you could have any supernatural power, what would it be and why?

I would have the power to see in the future so I can see which books to finish first.

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

My five favorite books are; Anything by Andrea Beaty and David Roberts, *The Giving Tree*, *Julius the Mermaid*, *The Day you Begin*, and *The Honeybee*

4. What writing and/or publishing-related accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my New York Times #1 Bestselling Illustrator credit with Kamala Harris' *"Superheroes Are Everywhere"*

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

I am really excited to help new beginners as I remember that time in my life and really wanted help from knowledgeable authors and illustrators.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

I can be encouraging and motivational to someone in following their dreams and trusting their gut!

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

I like bullet point suggestions and/or phone calls.

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

I like short and sweet stories with powerful messages and strong art. I like books for younger audiences. I also enjoy middle school art.

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

I think since I am more of an Artist/author, long stories may not be the way for me.

10. How will you help your mentee and their stories develop?

I will help them think of the global impact of their stories and identify their target reader. I will also give suggestions on art/style/color, developing the strongest ideas, and developing a social media presence.

11. What is your style of communication like?

I prefer 30min-1hr chats once/twice a week and/or email bullet suggestions on WIP. (work in progress)

12. What are you looking for in the applications you receive?

I'm looking for outgoing people who are committed to their work. I would love to help artists develop as well. :)

13. Any tips/advice for applicants to make their applications and/or manuscripts shine?

A clear vision helps get a clear result! Having an elevator pitch helps you create and pitch your work! My favorite line in art school was K.I.S.S. (keep it simple stupid-- I don't think anyone is stupid btw :)

14. 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?

An influential boss once told me to "Trust my gut", and I think that advice has gotten me to this point in my career. Hopefully, it will carry you on your journey as well. :)