



**Annemarie Riley Guertin** is the international author of *How the Finch Got His Colors* (Familius, 2018), and *Why Evergreens Keep Their Leaves* (Familius, 2019). Her second title earned her a starred review from Foreward Reviews. Her next two books, *Thundermaestro* and *Finding Mr. Trunks*, will be released by Familius in 2021. Annemarie graduated from Wheelock College and Fitchburg State University, earning both a bachelor's and a master's degree in education (summa cum laude). Annemarie works as a High School Early Education CTE teacher in Methuen, MA. She lives in Haverhill, MA, with her husband Michael and their two children.

**Annemarie will be accepting applications for:** A writer of fiction

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

If I could be in any tv series, I would choose to be a judge on *The Voice*. I'd love to be a firsthand witness to fellow dream chasers. I think there is something magical in helping others achieve a new level of success.

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

I would love the ability to teleport. I am an impatient person...I hate driving and flying, so this would be my top choice.

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

I love fiction, so here goes....

**1. Spoon by Amy Krouse Rosenthal-** This book is witty and funny. It is a style of writing that I envy.

**2. The Empty Pot by Demi-** I LOVE folktales, and this one is one of my absolute favorites. The storyline and illustrations are stunning.

**3. The Little Rabbit Who Wanted Red Wings by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey-** The classic 1931 version. I love this one because my aunt used to read it to me over and over as a kid, so it has sentimental value.

**4. Rudi's Pond by Eve Bunting-** This one is a tearjerker. This book is about death and how our loved ones can send us signs after they have crossed over.

**5. The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg-** Chris Van Allsburg is one of my all-time favorite authors. This story inspired my Jack Frost character in *Why Evergreen Trees Keep Their Leaves*.

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

My greatest accomplishment to date was getting a starred review for *Why Evergreen Trees Keep Their Leaves*.

**5. What about mentoring excites you most?**

I love everything about picture books- from the initial idea to drafting of the manuscript, to make edits and everything in between. So naturally, I am game to helping other people on their picture book journey.

**6. What are your strengths as a mentor?**

Well, I think that I am a straight shooter and a person of my word. So, if I say I am going to do something, you can count on it. I do not sugar coat my thoughts, so if you're considering me as a mentor, please be open to honest feedback. Another strength would be my organizational skills and my attention to detail. I think these are all important skills in helping another writer achieve personal success.

**7. What is your feedback/critique style like?**

I am honest in my feedback. I like to be as transparent as possible. What you see is what you get. As I stated above, if you are considering me as your mentor, please be open to honest feedback, and by that, I do not mean nasty feedback. I will tell you what I am thinking, ask for clarification if I am confused, and will offer you suggestions if I feel something needs fine-tuning.

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

I need a doer- a person who really wants this and will work hard to get there. I like deadlines and organization, so I need a mentee that is likeminded. I do not do well with procrastinators. I also need a mentee that is open to honest feedback. I am a super friendly person -I am! So please do not misconstrue my needs for being a \_\_\_\_\_ 😊 LOL.

**9. Who are you not the best mentor for?**

I am not a rhymers or a non-fiction writer, so I would not be a good mentor for writers in those genres.

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

I will help my mentee fine-tune their story. I will help them with their pitch, query letter, story, and marketing plan.

**11. What is your style of communication like?**

I communicate via email and DMs. I work full time teaching High School and have two young children at home, so I am remarkably busy from September-June. I answer emails at night after my day obligations, and household duties are finished. If you send me an email, I will respond by the next day. 😊

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

I guess I won't know until it hits me. Send me your fiction peeps!

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

Be authentic and honest. I want to know the real you. I would love to know the reasons behind your application to me.

**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?**

Hooray! You have taken the first step- keep going! Chase that dream!