



**Doreen Cronin** is the author of the Caldecott Honor Book *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*; The *Chicken Squad* series, The Bug Diaries: *Diary of a Worm*, *Diary of a Fly*, and *Diary of Spider*; *Cyclone*, and many other bestselling picture books, including *Duck for President*; *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*; *Click, Clack, Boo!*; *Dooby Dooby Moo*; *Bounce*; *Wiggle*; and *Bloom*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. Visit her at [DoreenCronin.com](http://DoreenCronin.com).

**Doreen will be accepting applications for:** picture books.

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

I would be Lenny Briscoe on *Law & Order*, for his New York sensibility, or Amy Pond on *Doctor Who*, because she's tough and funny and traveled with my favorite doctor.

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

Speaking the same language as plants. I want to hear *all of it*.

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

*Harold and the Purple Crayon*, by Crockett Johnson, *Boxes* by Antoinette Portis, *Bread and Jam for Frances* by Russell and Lillian Hoban, *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel (not technically a picture book, but bear with me); and *Kitten's First Full Moon* by Kevin Henkes.

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

When I meet college-aged kids who tell me "I grew up with *Click Clack Moo!*" I'm so touched that the book seemed to be a part of childhood memories for people.

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

The unknown!

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

I like to think I'm honest, but supportive. I LOVE new perspectives and I am routinely in awe of new books and new ideas and new stories.

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

Direct, but kind, I hope.

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

Humor and resilience. Don't be afraid to work. Don't be afraid to re-write. Hurl profanities at me as soon as you get your feedback (I can take it) and then go back to work.

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

Writers working on tender books. It's not my strength. Whenever I attempt it, I write a lecture. Also, if you are certain that your story is exactly right and just needs some tweaks . . . I'm not a really a polisher.

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

I'm all about the story. I don't have much knowledge to impart as far as marketing and social media. Dismantling a story and then sifting out the good stuff is favorite thing, although it can take more than one try. I love taking a pen to a manuscript!

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

It really depends on the relationship! Some writers may want frequent communication and others may just want to be nudged. I think our style together is more important than my style.

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

Humor, clarity, flexibility (can a story go in three different directions). I am not a great mentor for someone who is writing sweet or tender stories. It's not that I don't like them -- I do -- I just don't work with them very well.

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

Don't over-write! Leave space in the story for the art. You should probably be taking things out, not putting things in.

**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?**

You can't be right for everybody, so don't try. Your manuscript and your style will jibe with certain mentors, editors, illustrators, etc. and not others. Trust that it will find the home it needs.