



Hallee Adelman is the author of *My Quiet Ship* (2018), *Way Past Mad* (2020), *Way Past Worried* (2020), and two additional *Way Past* titles set for 2021 release. With a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Learning Technologies, Adelman has taught university and elementary students, having been nominated for the Disney Teacher of the Year Award on multiple occasions. She loves sharing writing tips with educators, children, teens and writers. Adelman has also served various organizations related to children and/or education such as Franklin Institute, Please Touch Museum, and Simon's Heart. She is married with two children and two dogs. Random fact: Adelman also produces documentary films and theater projects. Titles include *The Social Dilemma*, *Us Kids*, and *Our American Family* (working title, currently in post), which captures a family's battle to break free from generational addiction and trauma.

Hallee Adelman will be accepting applications for: picture book authors (fiction pbs, rhyming or non-rhyming welcome)

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

Mr. Rogers Neighborhood--I'd play his sidekick.

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

Not supernatural but... I'd love to speak every language. I could talk to/understand everyone and not accidentally order calf's brains on vacation. I'd also want to speed read b/c I love learning.

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

The Dot by Peter Reynolds; *Sophie's Squash* by Pat Zietlow Miller illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf; *The Monster at the End of this Book: Starring Lovable, Furry Old Grover* by Jon Stone & Mike Smollin; *Oh No! (Or How My Science Project Destroyed the World)* by Mac Barnett Illustrated by Dan Santat; *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena illustrated by Christian Robinson; *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina; *The Dunderheads* by Paul Fleishman illustrated by David Roberts...(AND SO MANY MORE!!!)

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

Hearing kids who needed a quiet ship speak out after reading *My Quiet Ship*. Having AW turn *Way Past Mad* into a "Way Past" series (and sticking with the story even though an early reader said that the manuscript wasn't even worth revising).

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

Being able to learn together, share lessons I've learned and support someone on his/her/their journey.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

Cheerleading; asking questions to help an author find the story in his/her heart; being specific with feedback; being open to all questions; listening.

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

I usually start by asking questions to best understand the author's intention. If written feedback, I often add comments on the side of the document to pose questions/share ideas to consider. If needed, we will discuss topics like voice, word choice, word count, cadence, plot structure/pacing, age-appropriateness, hook(s), heart, etc.

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

I'd like to work with someone who likes to have fun but who also cares deeply about kids and honing craft. I'd be honored to encourage someone who wonders if he/she/they should throw in the towel with this writing/publishing stuff, despite the fact that he/she/they still continue to write anyway. Bonus if this person is nice, flexible, and funny. As a side note, I do like pbs with story arcs.

9. Who are you NOT the best mentor for?

Not the best for nonfiction authors.
Not the best for someone who doesn't want feedback.

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

This is hard to know before I talk with a mentee. I'd like to understand my mentee's goals. Is it to write a special pb? Is it to polish a few manuscripts? Is it to have a strong query letter and prepare for submissions? Is it to get thoughts on how to keep learning or growing? How to launch/market a first book? I'd like to shape our time together based on what is important to my mentee.

11. What is your style of communication like?

It seems like it would be beneficial to connect weekly or every other week with the mentee. We'd likely pick a time to talk so we could review current work/revisions, have discussions and then have time apart for the mentee to continue forging ahead with the work. I'm open to email, phone or zoom meetings. If comfortable for the mentee, I do think phone or zoom meetings can be useful so that questions can be asked and there could be full discussions. Once the relationship is established, it might also be useful for the mentee to receive feedback via email a few times (as often times that is how their future editor will communicate). Again, I'm here to serve the mentee so I'm open to considering whatever is comfortable.

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

I do love heartfelt or funny stories. However, I have no expectations. There's nothing specific I'm looking for--so if you love to write, care about kids, love to learn, and you're not a jerk, then that's great. ☺

I would encourage mentees to think deeply about the mentors they are considering. Personally, I've found it helpful to select mentors whose work reflects my taste OR whose work is strong in an area that I still need to work on.

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

Write what you love. Press send. Don't worry. You're in a community where everyone is learning and growing.

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?

Press send. (Yes, I know I said it already.) ☺