



Pam Calvert is the author of seven picture books, with more on the way. Her most recent title is **FLASH THE LITTLE FIRE ENGINE (Two Lions)**, about a little fire truck who is about to go out on his first day on the job. Pam is well-known for her award-winning **PRINCESS PEEPERS** books as well as her math adventure series. She offers a free picture book workshop, Picture Book University <http://www.picturebookuniversity.com>, on her blog as well as a highly praised critique service. You can read more about it at <http://www.pamcalvert.blogspot.com/p/pb-critiques.html>. And she is excited to announce her new YouTube video channel based on her pb workshop, Picture Book University YouTube. Subscribe to her Instagram: @PamCalvertbooks , Twitter: PammCalvert and YouTube channel: and you'll be entered into a critique and picture book giveaway.

Pam will be accepting applications for: prose picture book texts/creative nonfiction

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

I'd like to be in Harry Potter series. I'd have a wand that shot out pink sparks and my patronus would be a unicorn. ;-)

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

I'd love to be like Captain Marvel. Who wouldn't want to have ultimate powers to help save the world?

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

Nugget and Fang by Tammi Sauer, Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin, Creepy Carrots by Peter Reynolds, Backhoe Joe by Lori Alexander, Lily's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

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

PRINCESS PEEPERS won several awards and it also appeared on Celebrity Apprentice as the example of picture book story structure for the celebrity challenge of writing a children's picture book. It was funny to see the rap star, Little John, peering into my very pink princess book!

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

I love taking someone with raw talent and getting them to the next level.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

I'm very good at story structure, teaching visual humor, and fine tuning character

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

I dive in and try to look at structure first then things like character inner and outer struggle. I also will try to make sure the story is focused. I like to go back and forth with stories. I can work on several at once while one is ruminating, we can start on another. Whatever the mentee is comfortable with.

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

I want someone who has already done their homework on how picture books are set up and written and just need someone to fine tune them and take them to the next level. They need to have a passion for picture books and want to do this as a profession.

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

I don't really do rhyming picture books.

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

I'll see what things they need to work on to take that story to the next level whether that's getting it into a better structure, working on character development or even style elements. I'll also share my experience in working with different publishers, how to catch an agent's eye and what to look for and to stay away from when it comes to agents. My brain is here to be picked!

11. What is your style of communication like?

I'm very informal and will go back and forth usually within two to three days. It just depends on my schedule. I've been busy but I'll definitely communicate at least once a week.

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

I'm looking for someone who loves children and can get into their mind's eye and write visually. Humor is always a plus, too!

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

I think just being yourself on your application is the best and why you decided to choose me as a mentor. Also, knowing and having experience in writing picture books and taking classes already will make your manuscripts stand out.

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?

If you have a passion for this then I'll take a bet on you that you WILL succeed. Just don't give up.