



**Christian Trimmer** is the author of four picture books, most recently *Teddy's Favorite Toy* (art by Madeline Valentine) and *Snow Pony and the Seven Miniature Ponies* (art by Jessie Sima), with four more in the works. He is also the editorial director of Henry Holt Books for Young Reader. Learn more at [christiantrimmer.com](http://christiantrimmer.com).

**Christian will be accepting applications for:** fiction and non-fiction, especially writers and illustrators from marginalized communities.

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

Claire on *Fleabag*

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

To write like Phoebe Waller-Bridge, whose craft strikes me as supernatural

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

I'm not going to name favorites, but I've recently enjoyed *Truman* by Jean Reidy and Lucy Ruth Cummins and *I Will Be Fierce* by Bea Birdsong and Nidhi Chanani.

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

It made me very happy that *Scary Stories for Young Foxes* by Christian McKay Heidicker (which I edited) received a Newbery Honor.

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

Paying it forward

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

I'm passionate about the work, and I have loads of experience to draw from.

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

Hands-on and thorough!

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

Beyond craft, I'm looking for a mentee who has taken the time to learn about children's publishing and the picture book market and who wants to be a long-term member of the community.

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

Someone who is the opposite of my answer to #8.

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

I'll edit the manuscript as I would any picture book manuscript I have on my list at Holt.

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

Straightforward.

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

Passion for story and character.

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

Voice! Give me a sense of who you are in the way you write your application.

**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'll never do a whole lot unless you're brave enough to try."—Dolly Parton