



Official Rules

The purpose of the free #PBChat Mentorship is to help writers and illustrators on their path to traditional publication of their picture books. This is an educational opportunity and the mentors are not offering access to their agents, editors, or other contacts.

The application window is June 1, 2020 through June 14, 2020 EDT. Eligible applicants may apply to up to two mentors but can only work with one mentor total if selected for a mentorship. You can tailor your application and manuscript to each of the mentors you apply to. Every mentor will evaluate each of their applications and pick one applicant to work with as their mentee.

Winners will be announced on July 31st, 2020 at 11am EDT via Twitter (@justinrcolon), the #PBChat section of justincolonbooks.com, and email. If you wish to receive the email with the announcement of winners, please subscribe to the #PBChat mailing list here: justincolonbooks.com/pbchat. Please use the contest hashtag, #PBChat, for all related posts on Twitter. The mentorships will run from August 1 through November 1, 2020 (unless otherwise noted on the mentor's questionnaire). Once selected, each mentor and their respective mentee will determine the structure and format of their mentorship together: frequency and method of communication, materials worked on, goals, plan of action, timeline, etc.

Please note that I, Justin Colón, reserve the right to read applications and manuscripts to: 1) ensure all eligibility requirements have been met 2) all rules and guidelines have been followed 3) pre-screen applications for mentors. Neither myself nor any of the mentors will use your ideas now or in the future, however, any similarity among our ideas and/or stories is purely coincidental. In addition, I may present impressive applicants with additional opportunities beyond the mentorship should they not be chosen for a mentorship this year.

If upon reading the entirety of this document plus the [FAQ](#) you have unanswered, rule-related questions, please email me at 2020pbchatmentorship@gmail.com. Please wait at least 48 hours before following up.

*In the event that you become agented, receive an offer of publication for a picture book, and/or accept a spot as a mentee in another writing/publishing-related program prior to the announcement of the 2020 PBChat Mentorship mentees, you are no longer eligible to be a PBChat mentee and I kindly request that you email me to withdraw your application.

Eligibility

The ideal applicant is a career-focused author, illustrator, or author/illustrator of picture books who is actively working toward traditional publication. They belong to at least one active critique group, participate in classes, conferences, and/or workshops, and are active in the kidlit community. They have at least three complete picture book manuscripts or dummies and/or an online portfolio.

Non-illustrator applicants may apply to the mentorship with only one complete manuscript under their belt; however, mentors may request additional manuscripts in addition to the one you've submitted if they're interested in working with you.

Illustrators applying to a mentor accepting applications from illustrators may submit an online portfolio in addition to or in lieu of a manuscript.

All applicants may submit a different manuscript to each of the mentors you submit to; however, you may submit no more than one manuscript to any mentor, unless specifically requested by the mentor after the initial round of submissions, otherwise you will be disqualified. **Once you submit your application, you may not revise it or submit a new application in its place.**

To be eligible, contestants must meet all of the following requirements:

- 1) Be un-agented
- 2) Not have been traditionally published in the picture book format (as an author, illustrator, or author/illustrator) for any market (excluding the educational market and licensed IP/work-for-hire books)
- 3) Not have a picture book under contract (excluding the educational market and licensed IP/work-for-hire books)
- 4) Not have been mentored as part of any publishing/writing-related mentorship for picture books within the past year (or be a current or upcoming mentee for another publishing/writing-related mentorship for any audience or genre).

Applicants who do not meet all eligibility requirements and/or do not follow all rules/guidelines, including those sent outside of the application window listed above, will receive no response and risk disqualification from the 2020 PBChat Mentorship and future mentorships.

Note: You are still eligible to apply if you have self-published work and/or published stories in magazines. However, you must be working toward traditional publication of your picture books to be eligible for this mentorship.

How to Apply

Note: Picture book manuscripts that are fiction must be under 800 words (preferably around 500 or less), and non-fiction manuscripts must be under 1000 words (excluding backmatter). Illustration notes do not count toward your word count.

*The submission form will only be live on justincolonbooks.com during the application window: June 1, 2020 through June 14, 2020 11:59pm EDT. Submissions will not be accepted outside of that timeframe.

- 1) Create or log in to your Gmail account. To submit your application, hosted via Google forms, you must have a Gmail account.
- 2) Visit justincolonbooks.com/2020-mentorship.
- 3) Under each mentor's name, you'll find a hyperlink that reads 'Apply Now'. Click the button for the mentor you'd like to apply to, and it will take you to their submission form.
- 4) Complete the form. Please double and triple check it, because you will not be able to revise your submission or submit a new one in its place.
- 5) Click 'submit'. You will receive an automated email confirming receipt of your submission.
- 6) You may complete this process for up to two mentors total.

* Please label and upload your manuscript as follows:

Mentor'sLastName_YourLastName_PBCHAT_TitleOfManuscript

*For dummies, please label and upload them as follows:

Mentor'sLastName_YourLastName_PBCHAT_TitleOfManuscript_Dummy

SUGGESTION: Before you submit your application, you may want to complete your answers in a blank document so you can proofread them before copying and pasting them into the submission form. You should also save your responses in that document so you can reuse and tweak them for your second application. You may submit a different manuscript/ and/or samples to each mentor.

****Applicants who submit to more than two mentors risk disqualification from the 2020 mentorship and future mentorships.**

****Unless encouraged by a specific mentor, please be respectful of the mentors and refrain from contacting them through social media, email, their websites, and/or other outlets with questions and/or input regarding the mentorship, your submission, your status as an applicant, feedback on your work, etc.**