



## Official Rules

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

The application window is April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 through April 30<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm EDT), 2021. Eligible applicants may apply to up to three 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 Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 11am EDT via Twitter (@pbchat1) 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](https://justincolonbooks.com/pbchat). Please use the hashtag, #PBChat for all related posts on Twitter. The mentorships will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 (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; 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 and the [FAQ](#) you have unanswered, rule-related questions, please email me at [2021pbchatmentorship@gmail.com](mailto:2021pbchatmentorship@gmail.com). Please wait at least 48 hours before following up.

\*In the event that you become agented, accept an offer of publication for a picture book, and/or accept a spot in another mentorship program prior to the announcement of the 2021 PBChat Mentorship mentees, it is possible you may no longer be eligible to be a PBChat mentee, depending upon the mentors you applied to and whether or not any of them are open to agented applicants and/or applicants with a picture book manuscript that has recently sold (even if it's yet to go under official contract). Accepting a spot as a mentee in another writing/publishing-related program will deem an applicant ineligible for a spot in the 2021 PBChat Mentorship. In the case that you should become agented, accept an offer of traditional publication for a picture book, and/or accept a spot in another mentorship program, I kindly request that you email me to withdraw your application to the 2021 PBChat Mentorship.

## 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.

It is suggested (not required) that you have at least three manuscripts polished to the best of your ability before applying to the mentorship. 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.

Applicants who are authors or author-illustrators 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 if applying to or accepting a mentorship with a PBChat mentor who has indicated they are not open to agented creators.
- 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) if applying to a mentor who has indicated they are not open to published creators.

3) Not have a picture book under contract (excluding the educational market and licensed IP/work-for-hire books) or about to go under contract if applying to a mentor who has indicated they are not open to published creators.

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).

5) If agented, you may not submit a manuscript that is currently or soon to be on submission to editors.

You may NOT submit a manuscript that: 1) Is about to go on submission 2) Is currently on or has been on submission 3) Has been self-published

\*If you have been published in the past by a PAL publisher for a board book or picture book, but that publisher is no longer in operation and/or your book is no longer in print, for the purpose of this application process/mentorship, you are considered a published creator and must apply as such.

Applicants who do not meet all eligibility requirements for a mentor should not apply to that mentor and will not be eligible to accept a mentorship with them should it be deemed they did not meet all eligibility requirements. Applications that do not adhere to 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](https://justincolonbooks.com) during the application window: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 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/2021-mentorship](https://justincolonbooks.com/2021-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 three 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 other submissions. You may submit a different manuscript/ and/or samples to each mentor.**

**\*\*Applicants who submit to more than three mentors risk disqualification from the 2021 mentorship and future mentorships.**

**\*\*Unless specifically 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.**