



Anitra Rowe Schulte [She/Her/Hers] is a children's book author with two upcoming picture books - her debut, *DANCING WITH DADDY*, illustrated by Ziyue Chen (Fall 2021/Two Lions), and *WILLOW AND BUNNY*, illustrated by Christopher Denise (Spring 2022/Two Lions). Anitra interviews authors and blogs about picture books at <http://anitaroweschulte.com> and organizes an annual Holiday Book Drive that connects Chicago children with new books. Anitra is a member of 12x12 and the debut group PB Debut Troupe 21. She lives with her husband and three daughters near Chicago, IL.

Anitra Rowe Schulte is accepting applications for: fiction prose. While Anitra is interested in, and open to, mentoring all creators, she would be especially pleased to mentor a neurodiverse creator.

Anitra is accepting applications from: unagented, unpublished creators only.

1. What's one non-publishing-related career that you wish you could have?

There are two careers that I would love to have explored: directing films or being the chef/owner of a restaurant. Storytelling and making a lasting sensorial impact are central to both (and goals of picture book writing, too!), so perhaps that's why!

2. If you could have dinner with one person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

Oooo, I would love to have a chat with Julie Andrews. I am a musical fan, and her films were an enormous part of my childhood. I also really enjoyed Julie's *Greenroom*, her TV show that introduced young audiences to various aspects of the performing arts.

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

All the Way to Havana, A Big Mooncake for Little Star, Doctor DeSoto, Plant a Kiss, The Important Book

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

I am thrilled to have two books coming out in the next year: DANCING WITH DADDY, illustrated by Ziyue Chen (Oct. 26, 2021), and WILLOW AND BUNNY, illustrated by Christopher Denise (Spring 2022). Both books are published by Two Lions.

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

I love connecting with other writers and sharing resources and ideas that I think will have an impact. In my former career (public relations), I managed teams and really enjoyed helping colleagues develop their skills and build upon their strengths.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

I'm easy going, positive and very goal oriented. I definitely want to help my mentee make the most of the time we have together. I can't wait to collaborate on a plan that helps my mentee move the needle in a big way!

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

I provide notes across all the basic storytelling elements and am sure to emphasize what is working well and what holds great promise. I also identify areas where the manuscript could be strengthened or whittled down to ensure that the heart comes through. In addition to overarching notes, I also provide line-level notes.

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

I would be well paired with a mentee who writes from the heart, is ready to dig in right away, and is looking for detailed feedback on their work. I really enjoy platform, too, so writers looking to grow in that area might find me to be a good match.

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

I do not have experience in rhyme or non-fiction.

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

I look forward to helping a mentee across all areas, including industry insights, story critiques, developing new ideas, story comps (I read a lot of PBs each week and love coming up with comps!), refining hooks and queries, and developing platform (I really love the intersection of books and community). In short, I would answer any writing life question my mentee might have, to the very best of my ability. There's nothing more that I love chatting about than craft and career!

11. What is your style of communication like?

Monthly video chats and weekly email check-ins would be terrific, and I'd be happy to provide feedback on any writing materials shared (from queries and manuscripts, to website copy).

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

Regarding work, I'd really like to connect with authors of stories that possess a strong voice and point of view, as well as beautiful language. In a mentee, I'd love to partner with someone who has drive and enthusiasm.

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

Polish and personality are always a win in my book!

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 are taking a big step in your writing journey, by pursuing this mentorship. Keep the momentum going! Keep taking steps forward, every day. Read everything you can. Write as often as you can. One day, you will turn around and be astounded by how far you've come!