



Elisa Boxer [She/her] is an Emmy-winning journalist and columnist whose work has appeared in publications including The New York Times, Fast Company, and Inc. magazine. She has reported for newspapers, magazines and TV stations, and she has a passion for telling stories about unsung heroes finding their voice and creating change. Her first book, *The Voice That Won the Vote: How One Woman's Words Made History*, came out last year and she has several more nonfiction picture books on the way. Elisa lives in Maine and you can visit her at <http://elisaboxer.com>

Elisa is accepting applications for: A writer of non-rhyming fiction or non-fiction. Special interest in bios, but open to anything!

Elisa is accepting applications from: unagented, agented, unpublished, and published creators.

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

CIA agent. But maybe I already am.

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

My Nana. She was my angel on earth.

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

Oh, this is a tough one! So many. But here are five: *The Carrot Seed*; *Lubna and Pebble*; *Oskar and the Eight Blessings*; *Ida, Always*; *The Day You Begin*.

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

Bringing to life the stories of unsung heroes who stepped way outside their comfort zones to create meaningful change in the world. Because I hope my books inspire kids to do the same. My #1 goal with my writing is to let kids know how much their voices matter.

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

Helping my mentee realize that they already have the answers within. So much of this whole process is about trusting yourself. It's taken me awhile to learn that. But now that I have, I am eager to help others learn it more quickly than I did!

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

Similar to my answer above, I think (I hope) that I reflect back what the writer already knows within their gut. Sometimes it just takes an outsider to draw that out. And if I can offer helpful ideas and insights along the way, all the better.

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

Reflective and methodical. I make suggestions. I ask questions. I enjoy line editing and mechanics, and I incorporate those, but obviously big-picture edits are more important, and I tend to focus on ideas, transitions, and unique approaches.

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

Curiosity, dedication, commitment. An openness to new ideas. And a desire to put in the hard work to bring those ideas to fruition.

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

Someone who's maybe a bit impatient and doesn't understand how sloooow this business can be. Oh wait, that was me. I wouldn't have wanted to mentor me.

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

In any and every way that they'd like! Developing ideas into marketable manuscripts, critiquing manuscripts and queries, offering insight into all aspects of the business... I'm open to everything!

11. What is your style of communication like?

I prefer to communicate via email, and I try to respond as quickly as possible to brief and straightforward questions. I take a bit longer with the edits and the more in-depth questions. But I really love giving feedback on all of the above, and I welcome an open and honest line of communication.

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

I'm looking for someone who understands the true impact of what they are embarking on. It is such a big, beautiful responsibility to be a child's window into the world. I'm also looking for an open mind and heart.

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

Be you! Rather than trying to fit a mold, be the most authentic version of yourself that you can possibly be. That way, you can't help but find the right fit.

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?

Congratulations! It's not easy to put yourself out there. Especially for us introverts. Just by applying, you've shown a commitment to yourself, to the craft, and to children. Keep at it, and remember your "why." On this roller-coaster that is the kidlit business, never forget your reasons for writing.