



Hannah Holt [She/Her] is a children's author with an engineering degree. Her picture books, *The Diamond and the Boy* and *A Father's Love*, weave together her love of lyrical language and science. While her upcoming book, *A History of Underwear with Professor Chicken* (2022), showcases her sillier side. Hannah's favorite types of stories tend to be engaging info-fiction and nonfiction. She's drawn to stories that have readers look at the world in a new way. Find out more about Hannah at www.hannahholt.com

Hannah is accepting applications for: fiction, non-fiction, and informational fiction. She's open to stories in prose and/or rhyme.

Hannah is accepting applications from: Unagented/unpublished creators only.

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

Ice cream taster or professional mermaid or ice cream testing mermaid.

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

My late grandmother, Ida Rose. She was funny, fierce, and I miss her. My book, *The Diamond and the Boy*, is dedicated to her.

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

So hard! A few that came to mind...

- Classic: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* (Hello, quarantine!)
- Nonfiction: *Queen of Physics, How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom*
- In Verse: *Once Upon A Twice*
- In Verse for the very young: *The Big Red Barn*
- Within the last year: *The Ocean Calls*

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

I'm proud of the data research I've done in children's publishing. I want children's writers to have access to information, so they can make good long-term decisions for their careers. As for book news, A Father's Love was part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library literacy program last year. A dream come true!

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

I love seeing others succeed. Of course, I can't promise a particular type of success; however, whether it's tackling a tricky revision, polishing a query letter, and/or submitting, I look forward to helping my mentee take that next step in their career.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

The ability to identify and draw out strengths and a desire to cheer you onward!

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

Wordy.

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

Someone committed to working on craft. Someone willing to take their time revising.

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

I'm probably not the best mentor for:

- books with a heavy-handed moral lesson
- nonfiction by white authors about people of color
- someone just "winging" rhyme

Note: I tend to receive a lot of biographies. While I love biographies and am always open to them, I'm not particularly interested in traditional cradle to grave stories. Be imaginative with your approach! Also, I love other forms of nonfiction, info-fiction, and straight-up fiction, too.

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

I will tailor my mentorship to meet the needs of my mentee, but here's a rough outline of what it might look like:

- Provide up to three in-depth revision rounds on one story.
- General notes on three to five other stories.
- Submission strategy chat.
- Feedback on one query letter and pitch.
- Check-ins and additional advice as you submit!

11. What is your style of communication like?

The positive stretch: I'll always tell you something I like and something to consider changing. As for format, we'll probably do most of our communicating via email. However, I'd love to have a zoom call our hangout as well.

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

I'll consider fiction, nonfiction, prose, verse, humorous, or serious stories. I tend to gravitate to nonfiction and info-fiction, but maybe this is the year I pick a purely fiction writer!

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

Look for ways to strengthen your voice. If you have a main character, make sure they don't behave like "any child would." Make them say and do things only a child with their specific attributes would say. Avoid cliches and take out filler words. Search your document for the word "noticed." It can almost always be edited out.

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?

Submitting is an act of bravery. Whether it's applying for this mentorship, submitting to an agent, or sending your work out for critique. Celebrate your tries as well as your successes, and you'll find yourself trying more and more. The more you write and the more you learn—the better you'll get. And with enough trying, you can't help but find success one way or another.

I applaud all those applying. Keep at it!