



Tara Lazar [She/Her] Street magic performer. Award-winning ice sculptor. Hog-calling champion. These are all things Tara Lazar has never been. Instead, she writes stories for children featuring quirky characters and hilarious happenings. Tara writes the 7 ATE 9 series of picture books from Little Brown, illustrated by Ross MacDonald. Her next book is BLOOP, about an alien who comes to conquer earth but thinks the dogs are in charge! Tara lives in New Jersey with her husband, two daughters, an adopted stray cat named Phoebe who thinks she rules over all humans. Visit Tara online to read about all her books at <http://taralazar.com>.

Tara will be accepting applications for: Humorous picture books!

Tara is accepting applications from: unagented/unpublished creators only.

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

Professional figure skater

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

Roald Dahl. Because he's my favorite writers and wrote both for adults and children, like I do.

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

Click Clack Moo, That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown, The Chanukkah Guest, Otto Grows Down, Guess What I Found in Dragon Wood

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

The Irma S. Black Award from Bank Street College because it was voted on by children! And that's who I write for!

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

Seeing a writer's work being published.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

Knowing stuff and being able to be honest.

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

I like to talk it over.

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

Humor and willingness to work hard.

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

Anyone with a lyrical/poetic bent.

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

By talking about their ideas and the market and where they might fit.

11. What is your style of communication like?

Honest. I like talking on video chats.

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

Humor.

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

Give me your best manuscript. It's the story that matters.

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?

Words first spoken by Kay Winters at my first conference: I've never known anyone who worked hard and didn't make it.