

## Writing with the Stars Official Rules.

The contest is open to picture book writers and illustrators only. The purpose of this mentorship is to help writers on their path to publication. The mentors are offering their knowledge and are **NOT** offering access to their agents or editors. The mentors will evaluate each application and pick one mentee to work with. If a mentor does not connect with any applicants, they will not take one. Once selected, each mentor/mentee team will work out their own methods of working together, frequency, etc. Mentorship dates are February 1-April 30.

Applicants should be career-focused writers/illustrators, actively working toward traditional publication with three to four complete PB manuscripts, dummies or an online portfolio. The ideal candidates are at an intermediate level, belong to critique groups and attend conferences or participate in other forms of kid lit education. The applicants must be un-agented and not previously published (self-pub is ok only if your intent is to pursue traditional publishing going forward, and you do not submit any work that was already published).

The application window will be open January 13 through midnight January 16 EST. Each contestant is allowed three applications. Applicants who do not follow the submission guidelines or send more than three will be disqualified. You are permitted to tailor the materials per mentor—they do not have to be the same piece for each. Please no cover letters—the application is your cover letter.

Winners will be announced on Twitter (#PBWWTS) and on my blog on January 31 at 11 am EST. Please sign up for contest updates [here](#).

### Ready to apply?

**Writers-** Please download the Word document titled “Application Cover Page.” You will need to fill this out three different times, once for each mentor. Add your manuscript beginning on page 2 after the cover page document to form one Word document. Please have your name and word count at the top of the manuscript. Fiction picture books must be under 800 words, non-fiction under 1200. In the header put the mentor’s last name - your last name (ex: McAnulty-Luebbe) on every page with page numbers. Please name your word document with the same format as the header (ex: McAnulty-Luebbe.doc). Email this document to [WWTScontest@gmail.com](mailto:WWTScontest@gmail.com). Use the subject line “WWTS Contest Mentor Last Name-Your Last Name and “Writer” (ex: WWTS Contest McAnulty-Luebbe Writer). You will send three separate emails, one per mentor application. Please do not send using OneDrive—it must be an attachment.

**Author/Illustrators-** Please download the Word document titled “Application Cover Page.” Place the cover sheet document as page 1 and then the dummy to make one new document (word or PDF). Save the file as mentor’s last name-your last name. (ex: McAnulty-Luebbe). In the header put mentor last name-your last name on all pages (ex: McAnulty-Luebbe) as well as page numbers. Email this document to [WWTScontest@gmail.com](mailto:WWTScontest@gmail.com). Use the subject line WWTS Contest Mentor Last Name-Your Last Name and “Author+Illustrator” (ex: WWTS Contest McAnulty-Luebbe Author+Illustrator). You will send three emails, one cover sheet and dummy per mentor application. Please no OneDrive-attachments only.

**Illustrators only-** Please download the Word document titled “Application Cover Page.” Fill this out and make sure your online portfolio address is noted. Make this page 1 and copy and paste up to three images on the following pages to form one complete document (Word or PDF). In the header put mentor’s last name-your last name on all pages (ex: McAnulty-Luebbe) as well as page numbers. Name the document the same as the header (ex: McAnulty-Luebbe) and send to [WWTScontest@gmail.com](mailto:WWTScontest@gmail.com). In the subject line write “WWTS Contest Mentor Last Name-Your Last Name and “Illustrator.” (ex: WWTS Contest McAnulty-Luebbe Illustrator). You will send three application emails, one per mentor. Please no OneDrive-attachments only.

**After the contest is over, all manuscripts will be deleted.**

If you have a burning question that is not answered above, and you absolutely need to contact me, do so at [WWTScontest@gmail.com](mailto:WWTScontest@gmail.com).