

Writing with the Stars Official Rules

The contest is open to picture book writers and illustrators. 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 any editors. Contestants may pick three mentors out of the group to apply to. The mentors will evaluate each application and pick one mentee to work with. Once selected, each mentor/mentee team will work out their own methods of working together, frequency etc. Mentorship dates are February 1-April 30 2018.

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 kidlit 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 magazines articles are ok). Winners of WWTS 2017 must sit out one year before applying again.

The application window will be open from January 8, 2018 through midnight January 13, 2018 EST. Each contestant is allowed three applications. Anything sent over that number will be deleted. Applications submitted that do not follow the submission guidelines will be disqualified. **Applications that are sent too early or too late (anytime outside of January 8-13) will be deleted.** You can send different manuscripts to different mentors if you choose, but no more than three applications in total. Tip: these applications take some thought and time so do not wait until the last minute.

Winners will be announced on Twitter (@T_Luebbe) and on my blog on January 31, 11 am EST. Please sign up for blog updates [here](#). The contest hashtag is #PBWWTS. Please use this for all related tweeting.

Ready to apply?

Writers- Please download the Word document titled “Application Cover Page.” Add your manuscript beginning on page 2 after 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 1200. In the header put Mentor’s Last Name/Your Last Name. (e.g. McAnulty-Luebbe). Please name your Word document with the same format as the header (McAnulty-Luebbe.doc). Email this document to WWTScontest@gmail.com. Use the subject line “WWTS Contest Mentor’s Last Name-Your Last Name (e.g. WWTS Contest McAnulty-Luebbe). You will send three separate emails, one per application.

Author/Illustrators- Please download the Word document titled “Application Cover Page.” Place the cover sheet document as page 1 and then the dummy starts on page 2 to make one new document. Fiction picture books must be under 800 words, non-fiction 1200. File size 15 mb and 72 dpi. Save the file as Mentor’s Last Name -Your Last Name. (e.g. McAnulty-Luebbe). Email this document to WWTScontest@gmail.com. Use the subject line WWTS Contest Mentor’s Last Name-Your Last Name. (e.g. WWTS Contest McAnulty-Luebbe). You will send three emails, one cover sheet and dummy combo per application.

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 add up to three images on the following pages to form one new complete document with the header Mentor’s Last Name, Your Last Name on all pages (e.g. McAnulty-Luebbe). Please no larger than 15 mb and 72 dpi. Name the document the same as the header (e.g. McAnulty-Luebbe) and send to WWTScontest@gmail.com. In the subject line write “WWTS Contest Mentor’s Last Name-Your Last Name and “Illustrator.” (e.g WWTS Contest McAnulty-Luebbe Illustrator). You will send three emails, one per mentor application.

Please Note: Format must be Word or PDF **ONLY** and sent as an attachment. Items sent in Dropbox, One Drive, links to any other programs, applications in the text of the email, non-Microsoft formats etc. will not be accepted. We get hundreds of applications and do not have time to deviate from the process. You will only get ONE return receipt—not three. If you get one, rest assured your applications arrived. All manuscripts are deleted after the contest.

Please read the FAQ [here](#). Anything not answered can be addressed to Tara at wwtscontest@gmail.com.