

## Writing with the Stars Official Rules—2019

This contest is open to aspiring picture book writers and illustrators. Its purpose is to offer mentorships that help writers and illustrators on their paths to publication. The mentors generously share their knowledge and expertise but are **NOT** offering access to their agents or any editors. Contestants may apply to up to three mentors. The mentors will independently evaluate each application and pick one mentee to work with. Once selected, each mentor/mentee team will determine their own methods of working together, frequency and method of communication, etc. The mentorships run from February 1 through April 30, 2019.

**Eligibility:** Contestants should be career-focused writers/illustrators actively working toward traditional publication, with at least three complete PB manuscripts or dummies, or an online portfolio. The ideal candidate is at an intermediate level, belongs to at least one critique group, and attends conferences or participates in other forms of kidlit education. Contestants must be un-agented and must not have been traditionally published (in any format) or have a book under contract (having self-pub work is not a disqualifier, but only if your intent is to pursue traditional publishing going forward; having magazine articles is also not a disqualifier). If you are published by anyone on the [following list](#), you are not eligible (but yay—congrats on being published!). If your publisher is in the “exempt” column, you are eligible. If your publisher is not on this list and you are unsure of your eligibility, please email us. WFH for any of the publishers on any of the lists except the “exempt” list is considered published and you are not eligible. If you are published in a WFH situation that is not on any of these lists, please email us. Past winners of WWTS must sit out one year before applying again.

The application window is January 9, 2019 through midnight January 13, 2019 EST. 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 9-13) will be deleted.** You can customize different manuscripts to different mentors, but no more than three applications in total will be accepted. Also, all applications must be sent together in ONE email. 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, at 11:00 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.” Fill this out as page 1, then add your manuscript, beginning on page 2, to create one new Word or PDF 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 1000 words. Please name your document “Mentor’s Last Name-Your Last Name.” example (McAnulty-Luebbe.doc). Repeat this process for up to two more of your mentor choices and email them as attachments in ONE email to: [WWTScontest@gmail.com](mailto:WWTScontest@gmail.com). Use the subject line “Your Last Name WWTS” (e.g. Luebbe WWTS). Do not send multiple emails. Wait until all of your applications are ready and send them together—one email with three attachments.

**Writer/Illustrators-** Please download the Word document titled “Application Cover Page.” Fill this out as page 1, and then start the dummy on page 2 to create one new Word or PDF document. Fiction picture books must be under 800 words, non-fiction under 1000 words. File size must be under 15 MB and 72 dpi. Save the file as “Mentor’s Last Name-Your Last Name.” (e.g. McAnulty-Luebbe). Do this for each mentor and email up to three documents in ONE email to: [WWTScontest@gmail.com](mailto:WWTScontest@gmail.com). Use the subject line “Your Last Name WWTS.” (e.g. Luebbe WWTS). Do not send multiple emails. Wait until all your applications are ready and send them together. If you run into a problem with files being too large to attach all three in one email, you can send two emails, but please try to keep it to one if possible.

**Illustrators only-** Please download the Word document titled “Application Cover Page.” Fill this out as page 1 and make sure your online portfolio address is noted. Add up to three images on the following pages to create one new Word or PDF document. File size must be under 15 MB and 72 dpi. Name the document “Mentor’s Last Name-Your Last Name” (e.g. McAnulty-Luebbe) and send to: [WWTScontest@gmail.com](mailto:WWTScontest@gmail.com). Use the subject line “Your Last Name WWTS” (e.g. Luebbe WWTS). Do this for each mentor. Do not send multiple emails. Wait until all your applications are ready and send them together. If you run into a problem with files being too large, you can send two emails, but please try to keep it to one if possible.

**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 (MAC) will not be accepted. We get hundreds of applications and do not have time to deviate from the process. You should get a return receipt from Gmail, which will let you know that we have your application. All manuscripts will be deleted after the contest.

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