

Ana Siqueira

Ana Siqueira will be accepting applications for: PB fiction, not rhyming, please. I'm especially seeking marginalized creators.



Bio: Ana Siqueira is a Spanish-language elementary teacher, an award-winning Brazilian children's author, and a published author in the Foreign Language educational market. Her debut picture book is *BELLA'S RECIPE FOR DISASTER/SUCCESS* (*Beaming Books, 2021*), Her forthcoming books are *IF YOUR BABYSITTER IS A BRUJA/ CUANDO TU NIÑERA ES UNA BRUJA* (SimonKids,2022), *ABUELA'S SUPER CAPA/LA SUPER CAPA DE ABUELA* (HarperCollins 2023) - two-book deal auction, *ROOM IN MAMI'S CORAZON* (HarperCollins 2024) and some others that can't be announced yet. Ana is a member of SCBWI, Las Musas Books, and co-founder of LatinxPitch. You can learn more about Ana, by following her.

Website: <https://anafiction.com/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/SraSiqueira1307>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/asiqueira1307/?hl=en>

1. You have two minutes to give a speech on anything! What would your topic be?

Representation in kidlit.

2. If you could live in any film, tv, or book universe, what would it be?

I would love to live in an adventures and suspense. I think I would love to live in the book *Witches* by Roald Dahl. But I also love chocolate, so I could live in *The Chocolate Factory* too.

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

- a. *Run, Little Chaski* by Mariana Llanos and Mariana Ruiz Johnson
- b. *Squish, Squash* by Rebecca Kraft Rector and Dana Wulfekotte
- c. *Julius, the Baby of the World* by Kevin Henkes
- d. *Not Quite Snow White* by Ashley Franklin and Ebony Glenn
- e. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst and Ray Cruz

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

I'm proud of trying new genres. It can be so hard. It's like you restart again, but I think after a year, I am finally getting the hang of writing chapter books and graphic novels.

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

I love connecting and helping.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

I try to be always available, to reply fast, to work on steps, to discuss big picture problems and I care.

I truly care about my mentee and their success.

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

I try to go step by step. First, we work on big-picture challenges. Then we work on inline comments and finally on word choice.

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

They are willing to work hard and to consider others' feedback. They don't need to accept every feedback, but they must be open to consider and to think about. I want stories about children and preferably about diverse kids. (any kind of diversity)

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

I prefer stories about children and not animals/objects. I am not great at rhyming. I am not the best for quiet books.

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

I will be working together with my mentee on making the manuscript stronger. I can also help with pitches and queries. We can also talk about other ideas and which ones to develop next. Last year, my mentee and I worked on more than one manuscript to get three of them ready for an agent. And she did get an agent and we are expecting some good news soon.

11. What is your style of communication like?

I am very fast replying to emails. but I think a few Zoom meetings can be very helpful to establish goals, etc. I love working with Google docs, where we can go back and forth on the same story.

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

I want the mentee to show me their commitment to improving the craft and I want to fall in love with their story. I also like when mentees are flexible and try new things. In the end, they decide what works and what doesn't, but they can always try different ideas and versions.

13. What kind of mentorship experience do you envision for you and your mentee?

My mentee will also become my friend and I will be their cheerleader forever. Also, forever, I will be available for questions and help.

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

Be honest. Show us your personality and commitment.

15. 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?

It's so tough to pick only one. If I don't pick yours, it doesn't mean I didn't love it. I will try to pick a story I love, but also one that I have a vision on how to help. So, don't feel discouraged. Always keep ongoing.