

HATEM ALY [He/Him]

Hatem is accepting applications for: Marginalized illustrators, or author-illustrators are highly preferable, but all are welcome.



Bio: Hatem Aly is an Egyptian-born illustrator who currently lives in beautiful New Brunswick, Canada, with his wife, son, and more pets than people. He has illustrated many books for young people that earned multiple starred reviews and positions on the NYT bestsellers including *THE PROUDEST BLUE* with Ibtihaj Muhammad & S.K . Ali, *IN MY MOSQUE* with M.O. Yuksel, the Newbery Honor winner *THE INQUISITOR’S TALE* by Adam Gidwitz, *THE UNICORN RESCUE SOCIETY* series also by Adam Gidwitz with several amazing co-authors, *MEET YASMIN* with Saadia Faruqi, and *HOW TO FEED YOUR PARENTS* by Ryan Miller. He has more upcoming books and projects in the works. You can find him online @metahatem. www.metahatem.com

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

The absolute coolness of concepts and ideas BUT you must start doing something, toss it away, and recreate it better.

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

Film: *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain*

TV/book: *Hilda* (By Luke Peasron)

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

(SO DIFFICULT TO KEEP IT TO 5! So these what come to mind “now”)

The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt- by Riel Nason, and Byron Eggenschwiler

Leave Me Alone- by Vera Brosgol

The Hat Trilogy - by Jon Klassen

*The Red Tree-*by Shaun Tan

The Boy (collection)- by Oliver Jeffers

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

The Proudest Blue -with S.K. Ali & Ibtihaj Muhammad

In My Mosque -with M.O. Yuksel.

5. What about mentoring excites you most?

I'm fascinated by ideas and what they may lead to, and I'd be happy to assist since it motivates me to open new doors and explore what's on the other side.

6. What are your strengths as a mentor?

I am eager to share my knowledge and learn from my mentee, as well as to provide resources that will help us both flourish.

7. What is your feedback/critique style like?

I listen like a reader, then use a critical and appreciating eye to attempt to expand on what we have and welcome new ideas if necessary, then talk and go over it again and again. But every now and again, I'd break the mold.

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

Serious playfulness and curiosity. Being able to express their fear and what they are thinking. Patience and openness to fresh ideas are required. It's a bonus if you're contemplative.

9. Who are you not the best mentor for?

Maybe someone who just wants my praise on their well-thought-out ideas. I'm afraid I'm incapable of helping.

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

Providing What to expect when you wish to publish your story, including how the publishing industry works and how to present your work, what an agent does, and what you can do to market your work online and on social media.

11. What is your style of communication like?

It depends on my work schedule, but I normally utilize an internet meeting service such as Zoom, Google Meet, and so on. Typically, I begin with an hour per week or every other week and gradually adjust as needed. Emails or a Discord channel are other excellent options.

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

A personal comment about the applicant and what they hope to achieve, including any spots where they are stalled. like discussing your hopes and fears with a buddy about this exact issue

If appropriate, include some of their likes and dislikes, as well as what books/creative individuals or art forms make them tick.

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

Helpful, enjoyable, and mutually beneficial.

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

Edit your work several times before exhibiting or sharing it, make notes if you're having trouble with certain areas, and keep it simple.

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?

Take any suggestions as if they were components for your own unique masterpiece rather than as strict guidelines. mash them all together in a bowl and watch what happens