

Hello Pitch Wars Hopefuls!

We're **Team Stellify** (Sandra Proudman and Shannon A. Thompson) and this is our Pitch Wars MG manuscript wish-list! We're on the lookout for all the MG science fiction, romance, fantasy, horror, contemporary, retellings, gothic, and STEM! Especially from marginalized voices!

If you're here, you're likely familiar with Pitch Wars. But if you're not...Pitch Wars is a mentoring program where published/agented authors, editors, or industry interns choose one writer to spend three months revising their manuscript. It ends in February with an Agent Showcase, where agents can read a pitch/first page and can request to read more. Learn more at PitchWars.org.

P.S. Since you're likely reading this, shout-out to you, our Future Mentee! Let's get ready to rumble!

ABOUT SHANNON

Shannon A. Thompson is the bestselling author of the Bad Bloods series and the Timely Death trilogy. When she is not writing, she is climbing rooftops, baking cookies, or watching KDramas in the middle of the night, often done with her cats by her side. She is represented by Katelyn Uplinger at D4EO Literary Agency. Thompson graduated from the University of Kansas with a BA in English with an emphasis on creative writing. Visit her blog for writers and readers at www.ShannonAThompson.com.

You can learn more about her on: [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Newsletter](#)

Find her books on: [Amazon](#) / [Goodreads](#) / [Author Website](#) / [Barnes & Noble](#)

ABOUT SANDRA

Sandra Proudman is a Mexican American writer of young adult and middle grade stories with unabashed Latinx protagonists. She grew up in Northern California where she studied journalism and creative writing. She is a Pitch Wars and DiverseVoices, Inc. mentor, was a Marketing and Publicity Intern at Latinx in Publishing, and will be creating blogs for #LatinxPitch. In her free time, she enjoys helping marginalized creators with their submission materials, mentoring writers of color, jumping onto Zoom calls with writer friends, and taking care of her adorable newborn.

Sandra is represented by Hannah Fergesen of KT Literary. Before signing with Hannah, she was in Pitch America '17 and Query Kombat '18. This is Sandra's third year mentoring Pitch Wars. Both her former mentees have landed at wonderful agencies.

You can learn more about her on: [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Newsletter](#)

BOOKS WE LOVE SIMILAR TO OUR WISHLIST:

Amari and the Night Brothers by B. B. Alston

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Ana on the Edge by A.J. Sass

City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab

Eva Evergreen, Semi-Magical Witch by Julie Abe

Furthermore by Tahereh Mafi

Ghost Squad by Claribel A. Ortega

Paola Santiago and the River of Tears by Tehlor Kay Mejia

Serafina and the Black Cloak by Robert Beatty

The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker

MOVIES WE LOVE:

Coco

Kiki's Delivery Service

ParaNorman

Raya and the Last Dragon

Sky High

Super 8

The BFG

The Goonies

The Labyrinth

Weathering With You

TV SHOWS WE LOVE:

A Series of Unfortunate Events

Cobra Kai

His Dark Materials

Never Have I Ever

Mr. Iglesias

Outer Banks

Sailor Moon

Secrets of Sulphur Springs

Stranger Things

Umbrella Academy

FUN FACTS FROM SHANNON:

I published my first novel at 16.

I've lived in six states: Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Georgia, Kansas, and Missouri.

During the day, I work at The Story Center, which is a grant-funded project that brings equal opportunity storytelling courses to Kansas City via the library.

I leave half-empty water glasses everywhere, just like the girl in SIGNS. I also consistently throw away spoons. This is not fixable.

I have narcolepsy, and it often causes hypnopompic hallucinations, which I use as inspiration to write!

FUN FACTS FROM SANDRA:

I just had a baby! He is adorable, but it also means I'm typically writing on the Notes app at 2 a.m.!

I have sold photography prints worldwide.

My favorite hike in the world is trekking up a dormant volcano at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

I make a mean banana bread loaf (with chocolate chips, of course!).

Hello, Pitch Wars hopefuls! For a downloadable, plain-text PDF version of this post, click [here](#). **This year I am partnering up with the fabulous Sandra Proudman to mentor a middle grade science fiction or fantasy writer for Pitch Wars. We are Team Stellify.** Stellify means to change or be changed into a star. It's associated with myths and magic, and we are ready to channel *all* of our magic to stellify our mentee! We're going to work hard and fight hard for you and your book, but we're also here to have fun and be supportive.

If you want more information about Pitch Wars, check out pitchwars.org for more info. If you've somehow arrived at my blog first, please take a minute to go visit [Sandra Proudman's blog](#), where she talks about who we are, what we're about, and lists the movies, TV shows, and books we absolutely love! Who knows? You might find a good comp title in there 😊

Below, you'll find our mentoring style as well as our official wishlist!

WHAT WE BELIEVE WE CAN HELP OUR MENTEE WITH:

- Character development
- Dialogue
- Line edits
- Pacing
- Stakes
- Query letter
- World building

If you've won a critique from us in the past or know us from social media: Please feel free to still submit to us! We'll be removing names from submission items to be as impartial as possible.

Our Communication Style:

We'll be with you every step of the way during your Pitch Wars journey. From explaining why we might be offering a certain comment/suggested change to guiding you through the querying process if this is your first time entering the querying trenches. Our goal is that by the time the showcase comes around, you'll feel confident querying your work, whether you get one request for pages or thirty.

We talk on Zoom a bunch, so we are always open to hopping on a Zoom call. If you're not into video conferencing, we can always hop on the phone or chat online. We'll work with you at your comfort level! We believe in equal access, and we're willing to be flexible with deadlines.

What We Are Looking for in a Mentee:

We are looking to work with a passionate writer who is dedicated to making their story the best it can possibly be, even if this means a possible complete rewrite. Be positive and ready to put in hard work. There is, of course, a temptation to say 'yes' to be selected even if you don't think your novel needs lots of work; if you truly know that you would not be open to major revisions, we may not be the best selection for you.

CATEGORY: MG

GENRES:

- Fantasy (portal, magical realism, other)
- Adventure
- Horror
- Steampunk
- Sci-Fi (space opera, near future, dystopian/post-apocalyptic, cyberpunk, soft, time travel, other)
- Retellings
- STEM
- Romance (sci-fi, fantasy)
- Contemporary with a dash of speculative

And now....

OUR WISHLIST:

Diverse characters written as the heroes of their own stories written by diverse writers. Sandra is Latinx, so Latinx (especially Afro-Latinx) stories hold a special place on our wish list.

Stories by LGBTQIA+ writers also hold a special place on our wishlist. Especially by writers of color.

Lush or strange fantasies with a diverse cast of characters set anywhere! Contemporary fantasies are our specialty!

Stories about found family and friendships, witty banter a plus!

Retellings, especially with a diverse twist and/or unique tales/myths/creatures.

Immersive settings and awesome world building!

Horror with twists and turns at every corner. We want witches/brujx, ghosts, haunted forests, bloodline curses, all of it! Give us your spooky tales, your ghosts, your monsters, your nightmares that come to life.

We love sci-fi, though tend to lean toward fantasy stories for Pitch Wars. If you do want to send us sci-fi, we specifically love space/androids/robots/AI and parallel universes, or any stories revolving STEM. We would love to see all the genre-bending sci-fi fantasy stories.

Fierce girls that don't need a hero to save them and who rebel against the life others want for them.

Epic action scenes reminiscent of the Agni Kai scene between Zuko and Azula in Avatar the Last Airbender!

What we're likely to pass on:

- **Most importantly, we are not a good fit for stories with themes of terminal illness or explicit scenes of sexual violence or assault. Please no stories that would require a heavy trigger warning.**

- We are not mentoring Adult or YA books. Don't waste a slot sending us your book if it's in these age groups! *Okay to send us a YA book that you want to age down.
- We are not the best fit for sports books or hard science fiction with a lot of technical aspects. There will likely be a lot that we couldn't comment on or help with.
- Please eliminate as many typos as you can prior to sending as they can often distract from getting into the story!

We cannot wait to read your submissions and no matter what happens, you finished a manuscript, you are amazing!

With all our support,

Shannon & Sandra