

Low-Residency MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults faculty information:

Marsha Wilson Chall

www.marshachall.com

Biography:

Born and raised in Minnesota as an only child, Marsha Wilson Chall amused herself in daydream and now sets those dreams in the storyscapes of lakes, woods, prairie, and beyond (even France). She hopes her books invite the reader to explore new destinations, both outward and inward. Chall has published a children's chapter book and six picture books, including *Up North at the Cabin*, *Bonaparte*, and *Prairie Train*. Her books have received numerous awards: an International Reading Association Teacher's Choice Award, American Booksellers Pick of the Lists, Parents Choice, and Smithsonian Notable recognition. When she's not writing or sharing her love of good books at schools or conferences, she enjoys teaching in the MFA program in Writing for Children and Young Adults at Hamline University. She has two grown children and lives on a small farm west of Minneapolis with her husband, dog, and barn cats.

I Am Happy to Work with Students in the Following Genres/Areas:

Picturebooks and chapter books

Other Things to Know About Me as an Advisor:

Although I write for small children, the work I do is of big significance to me and the many others who care for them and their development. The picturebook form is a serious art to be studied, practiced, and revered; and like kids, loved. As your advisor, I will instruct you by thorough letters in the many elements of the form, such as structure, characterization, suspense, tone, rhythm, and language. But we'll also respect the mystery, the intangibles, the synergies of the creation process.

I prefer to receive your packet submissions by email, and after I read them, I read them again, think about them very hard—so hard that I have to sleep on them (very gently), and then reread them again. Then I respond with lots of help from morning coffee within a week or less in a detailed letter to what I understand your manuscript to be about, what elements of craft succeed, and where/why/how you might strengthen your story. I'm happy to chat with you by email or phone if you have questions, concerns, or just need support. Most of us do sometimes, no matter how long we've been writing.

After I send you my review letter electronically, I'll then edit your manuscripts and return them to you in the Priority Mailer/Postage you've supplied. I look forward to your response to the process in your next packet.

Books of Mine I Recommend That You Read:

Up North at the Cabin, *Bonaparte*, *Sugarbush Spring*, *Happy Birthday, America!*, *Prairie Train*, *Rupa Raises the Sun*, *Mattie* (chapter book)