Marsha as a faculty advisor:

I Am Happy to Work with Students in the Following Genres/Areas: Picture books 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).