**FCWC Children’s Writing Intensive 2023**

**Michelle Medlock Adams**

[**www.michellemedlockadams.com**](http://www.michellemedlockadams.com)

**@INwritergirl on Twitter and Instagram**

**“Query Letter Clinic”**

**QUERY LETTER CLINIC:**

**YOU CAN BECOME THE QUEEN OR KING OF QUERY LETTERS!**

* **Quick Query Tips for Selling to Book Publishers:**
  + **Always address your query letter to a specific person. (You’ll find that information in Writers Market Guides, on publisher websites, and from faculty listings of various conferences. As a last resort, call the publisher to find out an editor’s name spelling and title just to be sure.)**
  + **Indicate that you’ve studied their publishing program. (You might mention a book that they’ve published or a series of books that relate to your manuscript.)**
  + **Show how your proposed story fits with their publishing program/identity.**
  + **Always offer a little extra something in your query letter such as offering to take photographs to accompany your text or writing “Fun Factoids” for the back matter.**
  + **Check to see if the publisher you’re querying is currently accepting submissions—some only accept queries from unagented writers during certain months of the year.**
  + **Keep it concise—try to keep your letter to one page.**
  + **Be sure to include your credentials (any expertise or awards or publishing history) in the third paragraph.**
  + **Always close by thanking the editor for his/her time. Next, offer to take on story ideas that their staff may not have time to generate. (Tell them you are open to “Work for Hire” projects and that you’d like to be included in their “freelance pool of writers.”)**

Note: Always check the Writers Market Guides to find out if the publisher requires a query letter or a cover letter and book proposal. Then follow those guidelines.