

January 22, 1993

Dear Michi,

Thanks for the enclosed manuscript. I think that there is a lovely story there worth submitting. I don't read manuscripts ever since I started writing myself. But I did look this over and I think you should definitely suggest that Frank submit it to the CMCL. As he is much published he probably wouldn't be eligible for the award offered for beginners, but I think it is the type of story that might very well interest the editors at HarperCollins. He may not even want to wade through the process that the Multicultural Center offers, but just submit it directly.

Structurally, I think the afterword needs to be somehow integrated into the text. The language now sounds like a rough draft of a retelling. The imagery is so rich that the text needs, in my opinion, to be fully textured as well. I agree with you about length. Making this flow and have life would probably come through polishing it moreso than expanding it.

If Frank wants to put it through the process, he should get an application and release form from the Center's director, Kelli Gary (10 East 53rd St./NYC 10022/(212) 207-7606). Although I can't assure you that it would be accepted for the mentoring program, I would certainly think it had an excellent chance. He doesn't need to have an illustrator attached to it, in fact, it's better to just submit it as is.

If he decides to forgo the Center for Multicultural Children's Literature and to polish it himself, he might want to research different publishers to decide where to send it first. It's tricky getting through the door but this story is an illustrator's dream and has a positive message that might appeal to editors.

There's a book out now called The Girl Who Loved Caterpillars (Philomel) with some similar elements. It might be worth looking at. Good luck to him.

I hope you're well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'pat', is located at the bottom of the page.