



Amber Nieves aka Mama Picky Pants

Interview Questions

- 1) Why did I become a children's author?
 - a. Because I love children's picture books! My mom read them to me as a child. I carried on the tradition in love. Reading picture books with my son released a cascade of emotions that my inner child, who was too busy being an adult had forgotten. My imagination ignited during our story time. I had forgotten what it was like to be young and have a head full of ideas and images. When I think back to my first story time, I don't remember words, I remember pictures. Pictures of rainbows, horses, baby animals, flying monkey's, birds, dwarfs, fairies, trees, skies, letters and shapes. My son helped reunite with my imagination and memories. This experience has taught me that picture books do things that no other books do. Each picture tells us a wordless story simply through our thoughts and feelings. Picture books can connect us to the world outside of our home and open us up to infinite possibilities. Pictures compel us to use our imagination and to make up our own stories. As a children's picture book author, I take the pictures from inside my head, add words and create real stories. What a gift! I truly believe picture books are meant to be shared, and after an event that shook our family I decided it was my turn to share our real story with the world.



- 2) When did I first realize I wanted to become a writer?
 - a. After reading to my son, the desire was solidified. I had the urge before then, with no direction. I wrote as hobby, as a passion. After sharing stories with my son, my love of story crafting began. For me writing is a passion harnessed to the act of creation . My greatest delight is to make up stories! Just as the seedling becomes a tree, my ideas become a story.
- 3) What makes me unique as a writer?
 - a. I craft stories about real-life events English and Spanish so that parents and children enjoy their story time together. And more importantly, when a child picks up my book without someone to read it to them, that the pictures allow their imaginations to sprout and bloom. I want my audience to relate to my books, and love reading them over and over again!

- 4) What was my inspiration for writing "A Duck Named Goose?"
 - a. The book was inspired by a real-life event that happened on the family farm. Our son wanted a baby duck; spring came along and he got one, named it Goose and raised it with four new baby chicks. The beautiful and unique duck became part of the family. Then one day Goose was gone. The family was saddened and heartbroken and missed him dearly. It left a hole in the family so big that I set out to write a picture book for her son as a way to remember their duck always. The story is as soft and sweet as the duck, and the ending is a new beginning that brings her family together to remember the life of their duck named Goose.

- 5) Why do I write my stories in Spanish?
 - a. I believe that language is powerful in expressing feelings and in deepening connections between people and cultures. I first learned Spanish words in Kindergarten, and I've been interested in language ever since. I want children to understand how important language is to communication, and by sharing books in Spanish I hope to help them connect with the stories in valuable and enriching ways, through language.

- 6) Where do I get ideas for stories?
 - a. Real life. Events and happenings in our daily lives, especially as my son grows up. The funniest things happen when you have 3 dogs, 7 chickens, 2 ducks, 1 fish, a houseful of ladybugs, and a little boy!

- 7) Do I have any suggestions for becoming a better writer?
 - a. Talk to other writers in your genre, ask questions, always be curious, and have a desire to produce high quality work.

- 8) What did I want to be when I grew up?
 - a. A horse trainer. I remember 3 years of my life from 2nd to 5th grade during which I was fascinated with all things equine-like and my free time was spent drawing horses, zebras, unicorns, and Pegasus's .

- 9) What can you expect from me in the future?
 - a. More beautifully illustrated picture books based on real stories of real-life events, published by Mama Picky Pants.

- 10) For interviews, classroom and library readings how can I be contacted?
 - a. Please visit my contact page at: [mamapickypants dot com](http://mamapickypants.com), or email me @ [mamapickypants at gmail dot com](mailto:mamapickypants@gmail.com)



