

Questions to Ask a Potential Literary Agent

How many other clients does he/she have?

Who are those clients/authors?

What genres does he/she work with?

How long has he/she been an agent?

Where does he/she live? (Does he/she have easy access to the publishers you want to work with?)

Does he/she work with the publishers you are interested in working with?

How many contracts has he/she secured?

How many has he/she secured in the past year?

What commission does he/she take?

Does he/she require a monthly retainer?

What are the terms of his/her contract with authors?

How does he/she prefer to communicate and stay in contact? How often will the two of you connect for updates, brainstorming, etc.?

Questions to Ask Yourself

Do you know anyone who has worked with this agent? What does that person have to say about him/her?

What are you looking for in an agent? Mellow, soft, easy peasy or a go-getting tiger?

What will you gain by having an agent?

What will you sacrifice?

What are your priorities with an agent? Is it getting your proposal in front of specific publishers? Is it securing the most lucrative contract? Is it having the editorial guidance of someone with experience in your industry?