

What Makes A Good Picture Book

Lynn Chua
Raneetha Rajaratnam



OUTLINE:

- What is a picture book
- Elements of a good picture book
- Q & A

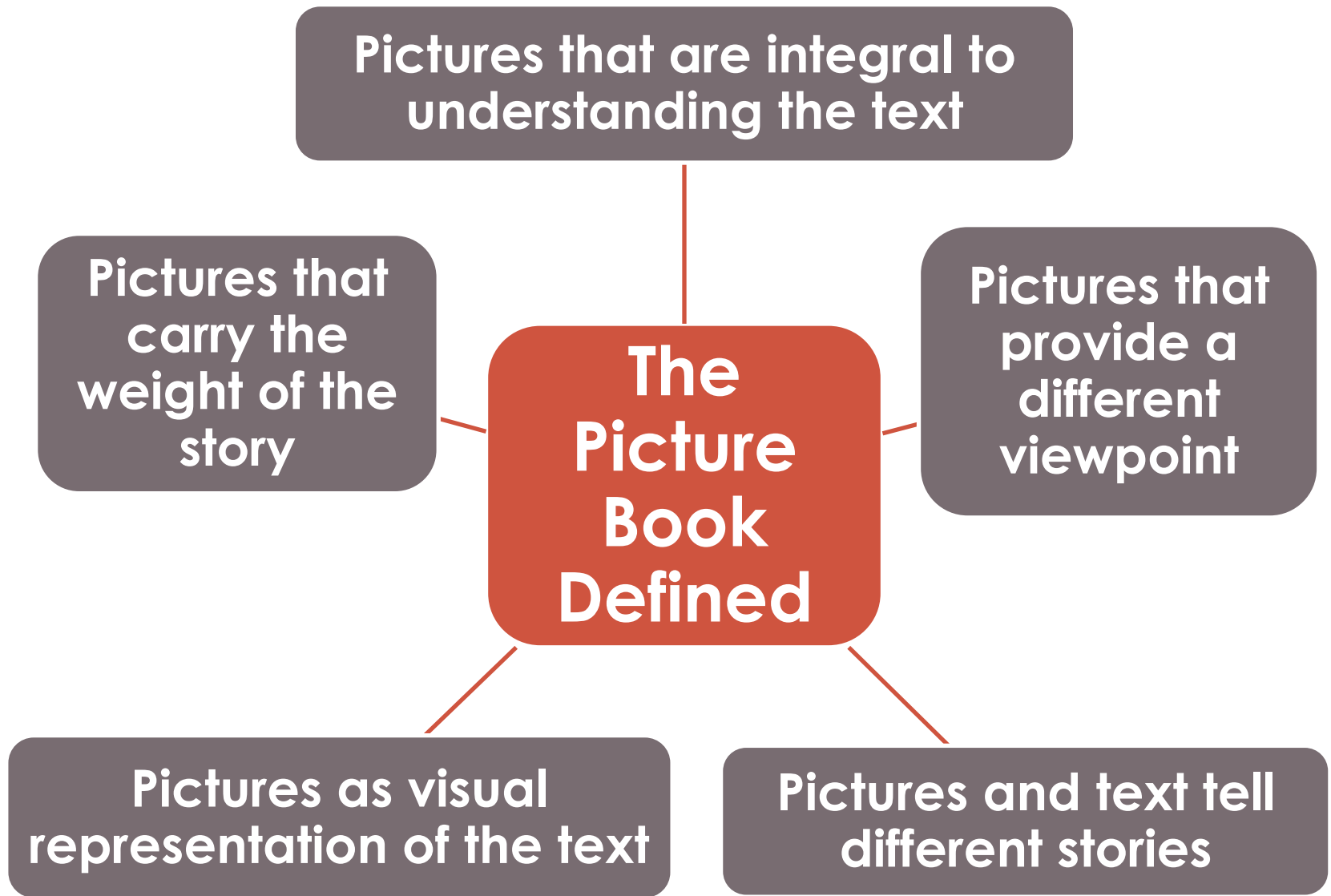
WHY DO CHILDREN NEED PICTURE BOOKS?

- Pictures help children understand what they are reading and allow young readers to analyze the story
- Picture books help develop story sense
- Picture books are multi-sensory, which aids a child's growing mind and stimulates their imagination
- *“and what is the use of a book,”* thought Alice, *“without pictures or conversations in it?”*

(Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll)

CHARACTERISTICS OF PICTURE BOOKS

- Usually 32 pages
- Pictures dominate text
- Pictures integrate with the text to bring the story to a satisfying conclusion
- Word count is generally less than 2000 words



CALDECOTT AWARD

"A picture book for children, as distinguished from other books with illustrations, is one that essentially provides the child with a visual experience"

The Caldecott Medal

- Awarded annually by the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children



The Caldecott Honor

- Caldecott "runner-ups"
- Cited as other books worthy of attention

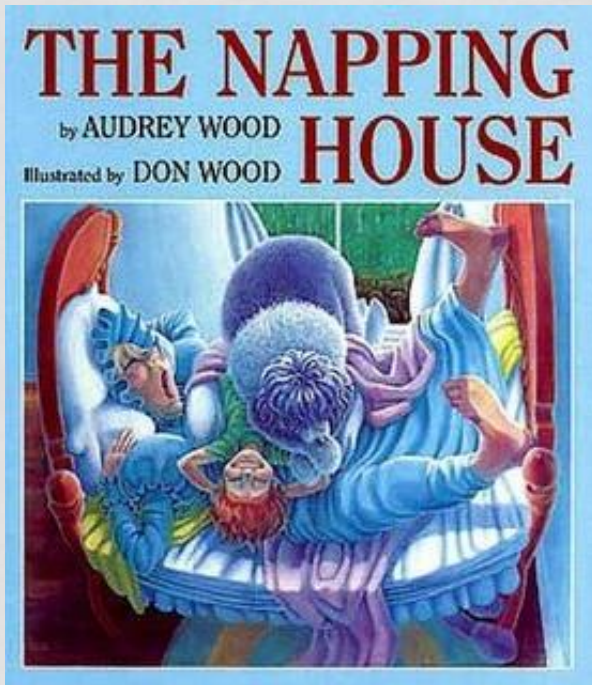


WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

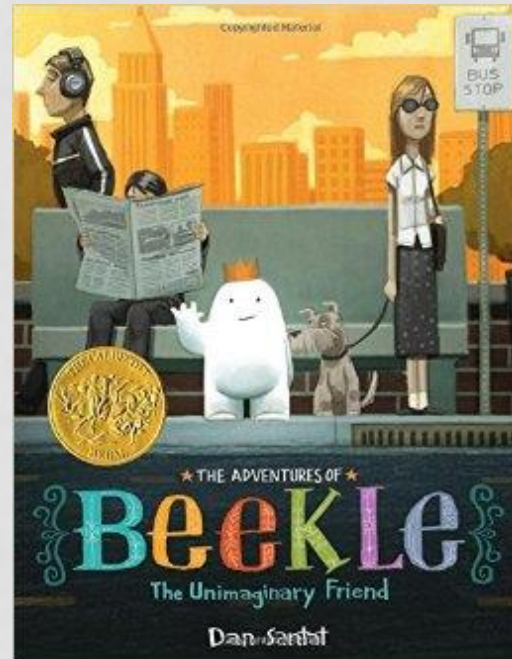
~ PICTURES

- **Pictures**

- Good use of visual elements to create literature



The Napping House
Audrey Wood
JP WOO

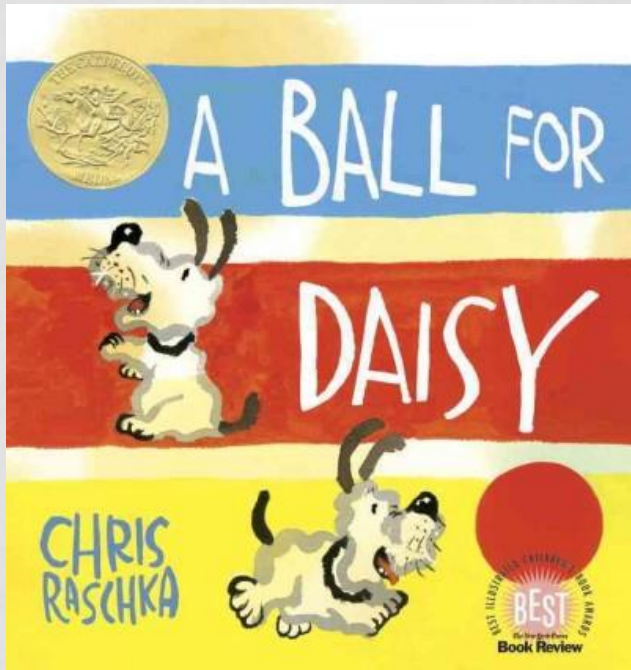


Adventures of Beekle
Dan Santat

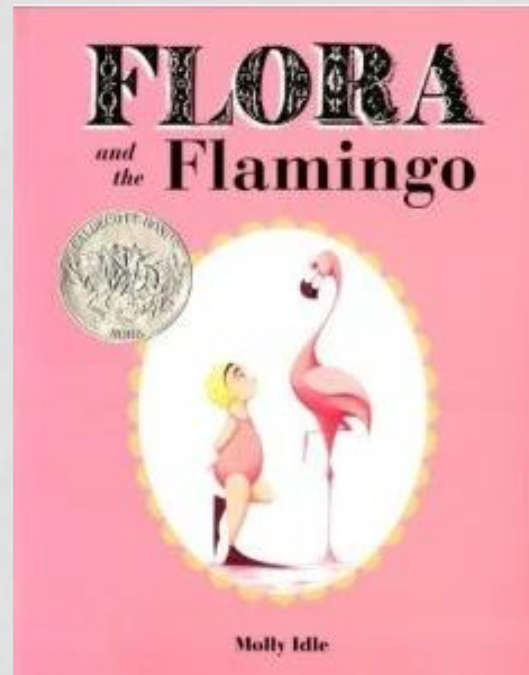
What Makes a Good Picture Book?

~ Pictures

- **Pictures**
 - Illustrations that have storytelling qualities



A Ball for Daisy
Chris Raschka
JP RAS



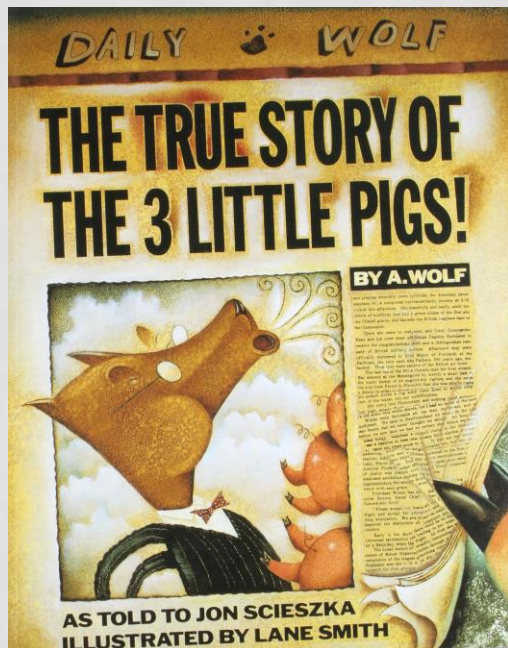
Flora and the Flamingo
Molly Idle
JP IDL

What Makes a Good Picture Book?

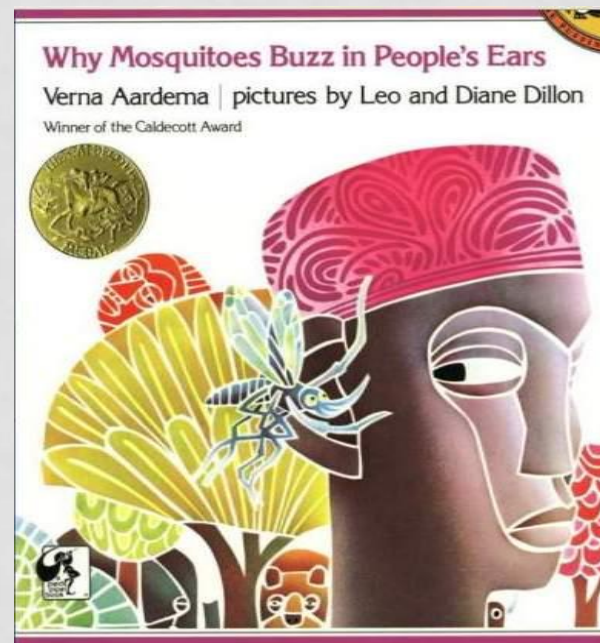
~ Pictures

- **Pictures**

- Style of art that is appropriate to the story



The True Story of The 3 Little Pigs
Jon Scieszka ,
JP SCI



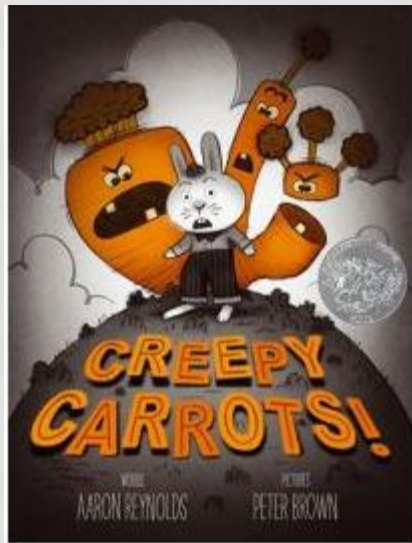
Why Mosquitos buzz in people's Ears
Verna Aardema
JP 398.2 AAR

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

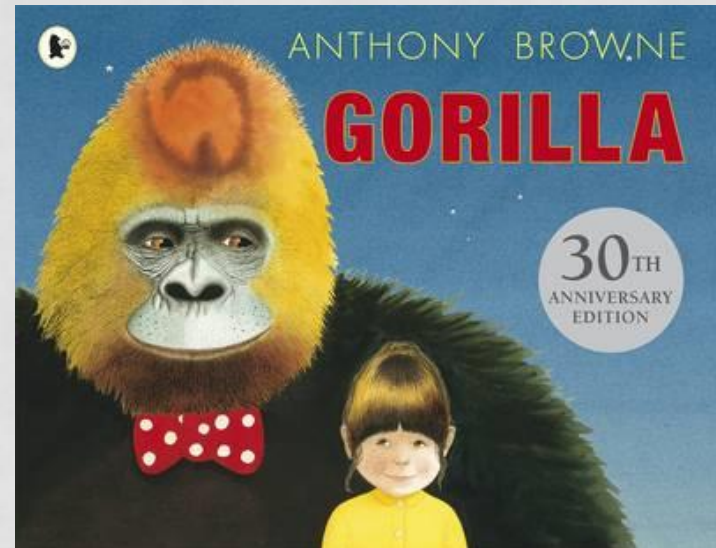
~ PICTURES

- **Pictures**

- Help create the mood of the story
- Images that enhance the narrative rather than just mirror the text



Creepy carrots!
Aaron Reynolds
JP REY



Gorilla
Anthony Browne
JP BRO

The Use of Shapes in Picture Books

Circle

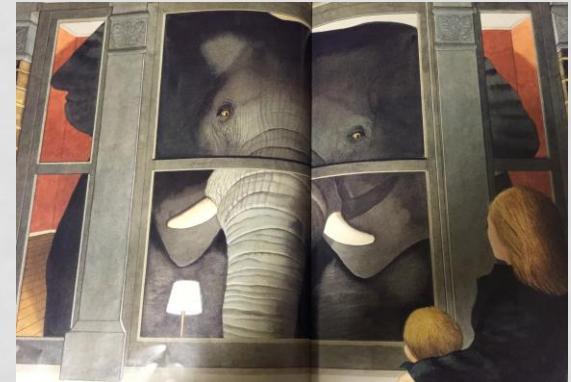
- ▀ Suggests completeness and wholeness
- ▀ Being enclosed in circle suggests warmth and love



Million of cats by Wanda Gag

Squares and rectangles

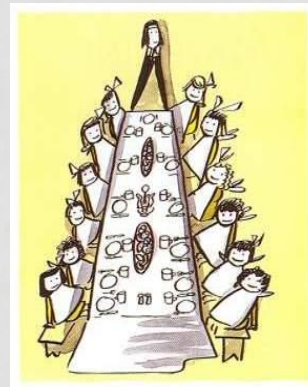
- ▀ Suggests rigidity, dullness and conformity
- ▀ Feel of being “boxed in”



*What if...?
By Anthony Browne*

Triangle

- ▀ Suggests solidity, hierarchy



*Madeline
by Ludwig Bemelmans*



*Zoo
by Anthony
Browne*

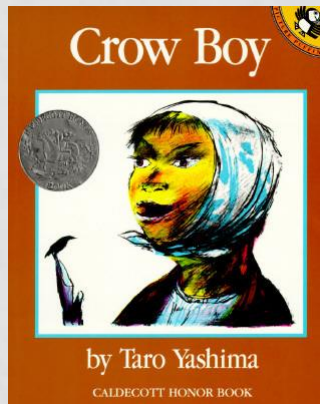
VISUAL ELEMENT: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- ✓ Cultivate children's taste and appreciation to the variety of artistic styles and media
- ✓ Understanding the artist's techniques and style can enrich our appreciation of the work as adults and help us to make wise book selections for children

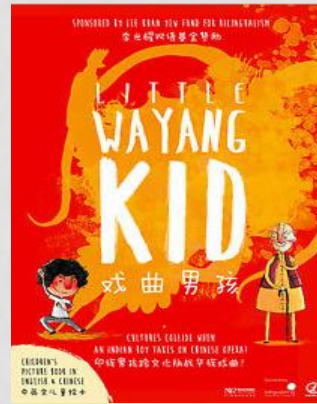
WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK? ~ STORY

❖ Contains a plot that :

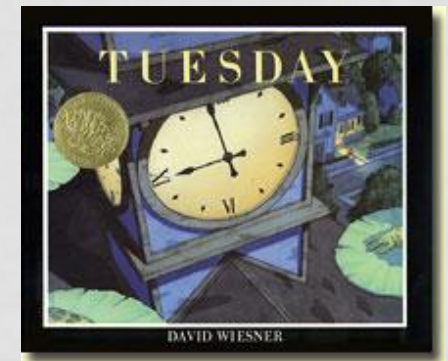
- Is well-structured
- Builds suspense
- Builds logically
- Contains important values
- Is timeless
- Is playful and fun



Crow Boy
Taro Yashima
YAS or 895.6 YAS



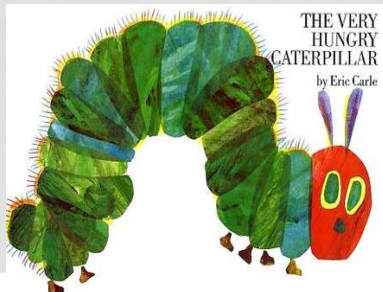
Little Wayang Kid
Raymond Tan
J SING TNR



Tuesday
David Wiesner
JP WIE

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK? ~ CHARACTERS

SOME MEMORABLE AND WELL-DEVELOPED CHARACTERS...



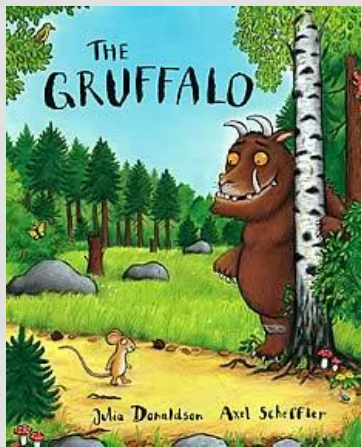
The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Eric Carle

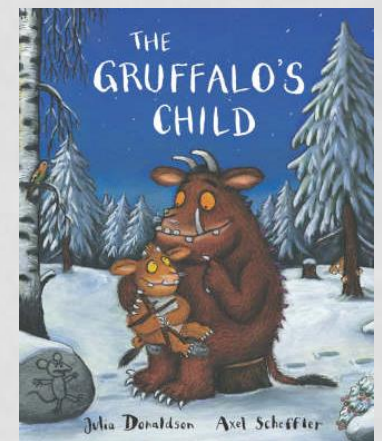
JP CAR

All rights reserved. National Library Board Singapore

SOME MEMORABLE AND WELL-DEVELOPED CHARACTERS...



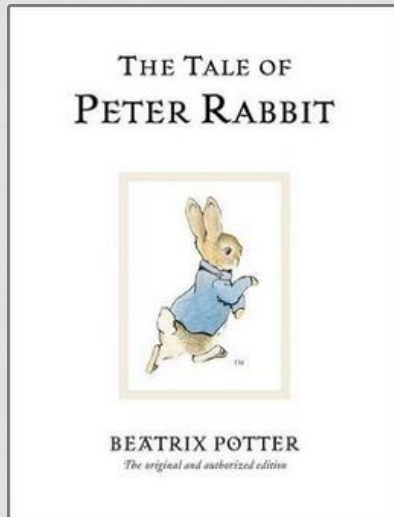
The Gruffalo
Julia Donaldson
JP DON



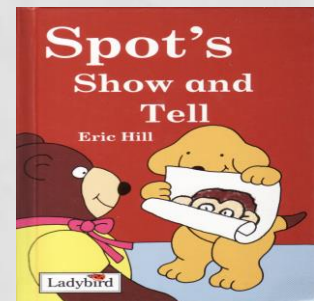
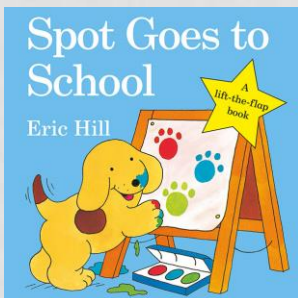
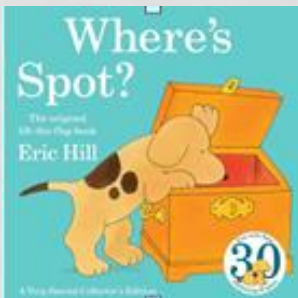
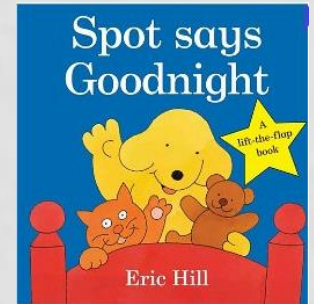
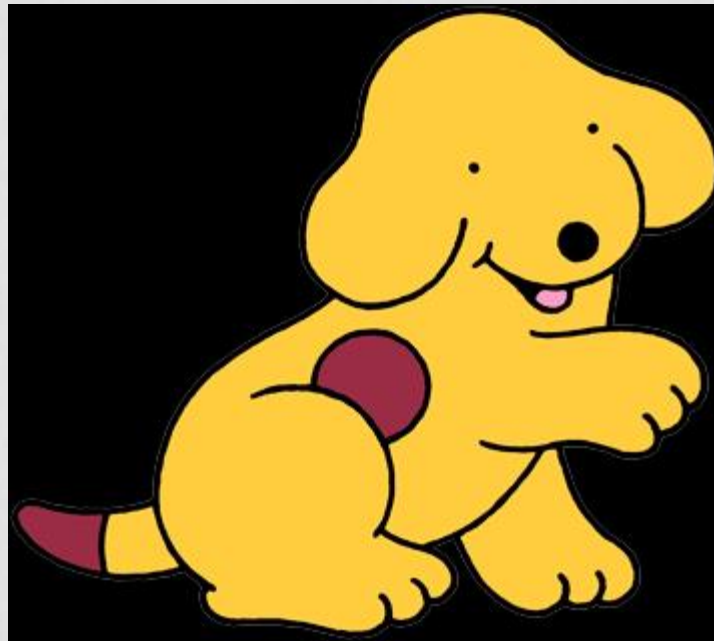
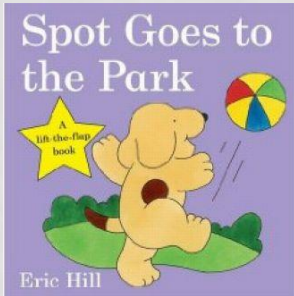
SOME MEMORABLE AND WELL-DEVELOPED CHARACTERS...



The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Beatrix Potter
JP POT

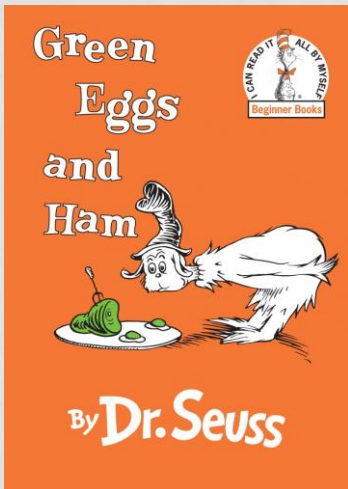


SOME MEMORABLE AND WELL-DEVELOPED CHARACTERS...



Spot the Dog series
Eric Hill
JP HIL

SOME MEMORABLE AND WELL-DEVELOPED CHARACTERS...



Sam-I-Am

Green Eggs and Ham
Dr Seuss
JP SEU

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

~ CHARACTERS

❖ **Memorable and Well-Developed Characters**

- The central character should be unforgettable
- Characters whom readers care about; characters that become special friends.
- Characters that are convincing and credible with personalities that emerge as interesting and distinctive.
- Behavior of characters should be consistent with their ages and background to create believability

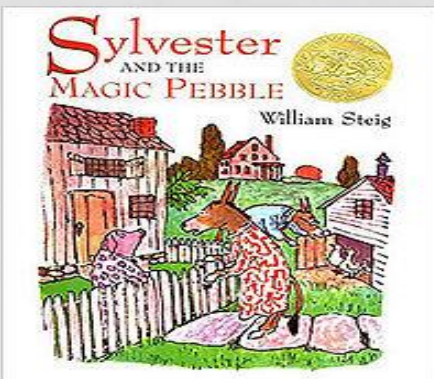
WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

~ SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STORY

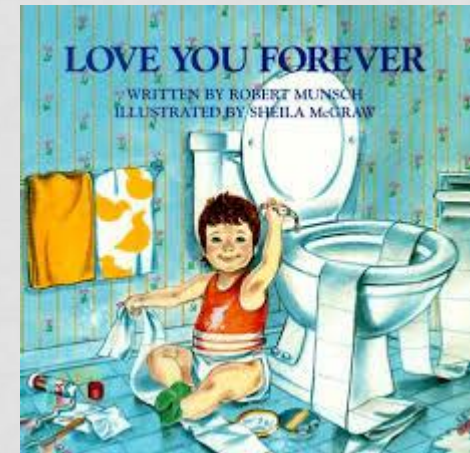
❖ Multiple Levels of Meaning

- Books that do not patronize children by pretending that there are simple answers to complex questions
- Books that provides new insights, allows for variety of responses and challenges one's thinking and feelings

❖ Books that provide an emotional or thought-provoking experience



Sylvester and the Magic Pebble
William Steig
JP STE

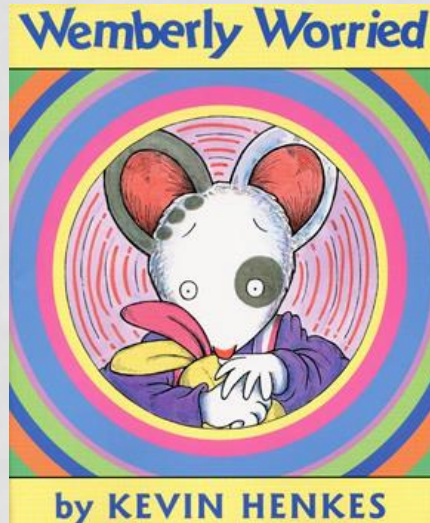


Love You Forever
Robert Munsch
JP MUN

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

❖ Good writing and language

- Well constructed sentences
- Effective use of dialogue
- Language used is (positively) memorable



Wemberly Worried
Kevin Henkes
JP HEN

Extracted from Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes

Wemberly worried about everything.

Big things. Little things, and things in between.

Wemberly worried in the morning.

She worried at night.

And she worried throughout the day

“You worry too much,” said her mother

“When you worry, I worry,” said her father.

“Worry, worry, worry,” said her grandmother.

“Too much worry”

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

❖ Good use of different techniques

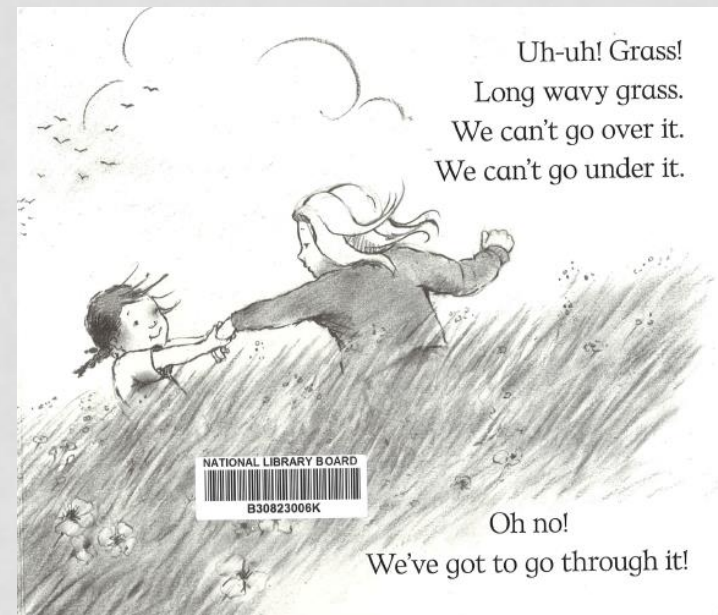
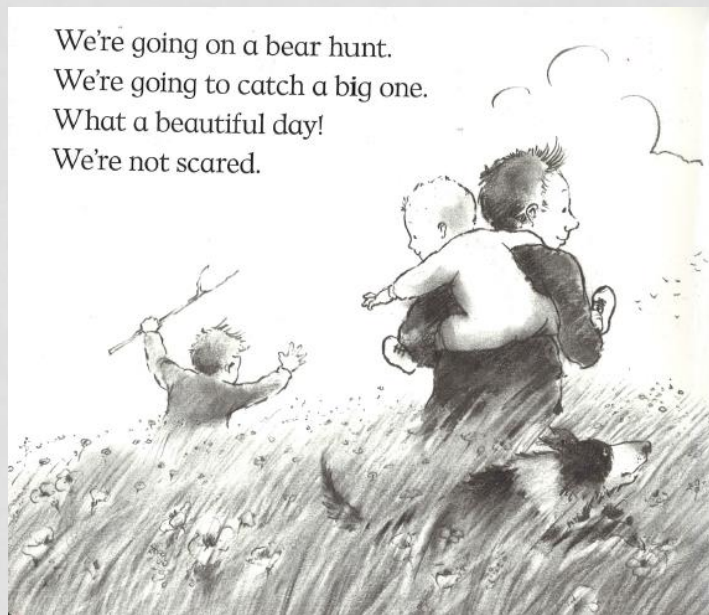
Foreshadowing technique: Pictorial and Textual



WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

❖ Good use of different techniques

Cliffhanger technique



WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK? ~ RESPONSES OF CHILDREN

❖ Popular appeal

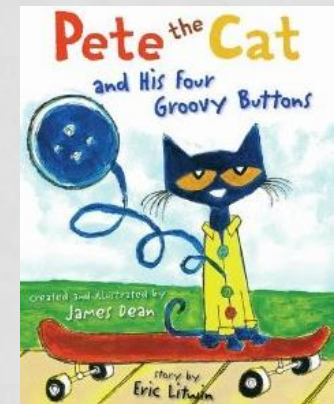
- Must appeal to children
- Must appeal to “child” within the adult
- Books that people turn to again and again



The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Eric Carle
JP CAR



*Don't Let the Pigeon
Drive the Bus!*
Mo Willems
JP WIL



*Pete the Cat and His
Four Groovy Buttons*
Eric Litwin
JP LIT

SUMMARY: WHAT MAKES A GOOD PICTURE BOOK?

- Pictures (Good use of visual elements that enhance the text, create mood of the story, storytelling qualities)
- A great story (plot)
- Memorable & well developed characters
- Significance of the story
- Good writing and language
- Good use of techniques
- Elicits a positive response from children

References:

- Marcus, Leonard S. *A Caldecott celebration: Seven artists and their paths to the Caldecott Medal*. New York : Walker & Co., c2008
- Jacobs, James S. *Children's literature, briefly*. Upper Saddle River, N.J. : Pearson/Merrill Prentice Hall, c2004
- Nodelman, P. *Words about pictures: the narrative art of children's picture books*. Athens : University of Georgia Press, c1988.
- Schwarcz, Joseph H. *The picture book comes of age: looking at childhood through the art of illustration*. Chicago : American Library Association, 1991.
- Cianciolo, P. *Picture Books for Children*. Chicago : American Library Association, 1997

THANK YOU