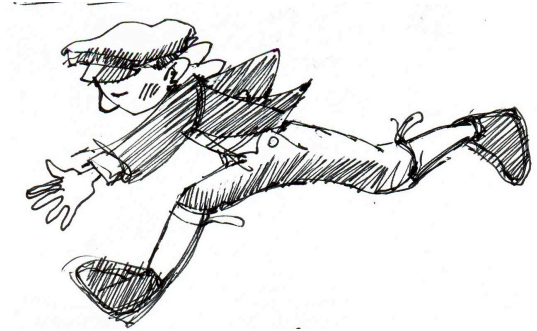


Critiquing picture book illustrations

by Sherry Meidell

- What is your first impression of the art?
- How is their use of line and color?
- Are the faces and characters consistent throughout the book dummy?
- Do the illustrations show place? (where the characters dwell)
- Do the characters show emotion through face expressions and body language?
- Do the illustrations show a variety of vantage points?
- How is the composition? (Is the page designed nicely?) (Is an important part of the illustration hidden by the gutter?) (Is there a surprise with each page turn?)
- Do the illustrations create a mood?
- How is the pacing of the book? Is suspense created by the page turns? Do the book illustrations move from left to right unless there is a wanted impact?
- Does the illustrator have a distinctive voice? and style?
- Is it an original story? or an old story told in a new and original way?
- Do the illustrations add to and tell an additional story which grows from the words?
- Do the illustrations stray from any details that are described in the words?
- Are there words that can be cut out of the text because they are shown better in the illustrations?
- Do the pictures and story tug at some deep human emotion?



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