

MINI LESSON



6 traits

<h3>WORD CHOICE</h3>	<p>Every word in a picture book must be precise. The text is condensed, but not dense. It must be rich and create strong mental images in the reader's mind. A good story is filled with strong sensory images and uses figurative language effectively. The books listed here are fine examples of word choice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Owl Moon</u> by Jane Yolen• <u>The Pumpkin Blanket</u> by Deborah Turney Zagwyn• <u>Relatives Came</u>• <u>What You Know First</u> by Patricia MacLachlan
<h3>UNDERSTANDING VOICE</h3>	<p>Voice is sound of the writing. It's like music on a page and every song has it's own unique rhythm. Voice is active or passive. Good writers work towards owning an active voice. Verbs are the powerhouse of voice. Voice happens when the sensory images, figurative language and the sentences flow together with a certain beat. Think of it not as the writer's voice, but the voice of the piece. Search for humorous voices, uppity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day</u> by Judith Viorst (pouty/whiny voice)• <u>Amber on the Mountain</u> by Tony Johnston (country voice)• <u>Green Wilma</u> by Tedd Arnold (humorous voice)• <u>Piggie Pie</u> by Margie Palatini (humorous voice)• <u>Pierre</u> by Maurice Sendak (humorous voice)

	<p>voices, whiny voices, tense voices, happy voices, mad voices, etc. Reading aloud with expression is the most effective way to "teach" voice.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">USING GOOD SENTENCE FLUENCY</p>	<p>Some sentences are short and some sentences are long. Sentences flow together and when you read aloud, there is a smoothness to the sound of your voice. You are not tripping over awkward words or phrases. Think of sentence fluency as a flowing river. Some places on the river are smooth as glass. Other places along the river ripple and roll. And still, other places along the river rush and foam. There are many twist, turns and waterfalls along a river's path, and of course, every river's destination is the ocean. There are lots of twist and turns along a story path, and of course, every story's destination is a satisfying conclusion. Sentences are like the river - they take you to the ocean.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower Garden by Eve Bunting • Time for Bed by Mem Fox • Wombat Divine by Mem Fox • A Night in the Country by Cynthia Rylant • Barn Dance by Bill Martin, Jr. • Everybody Needs a Rock by Byrd Baylor • Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost; Illustrated by Susan Jeffers • Charlie Parker Played Be Bop by Chris Raschka • Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg • Owl Moon by Jane Yolen • Welcome to the Green House by Jane Yolen
<p style="text-align: center;">USING GOOD CONVENTIONS</p>	<p>Conventions equals capitalization, usage, punctuation and spelling (or C.U.P.S.). Conventions are important and certainly shouldn't take a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Pictures to Words by Janet Stevens • Punctuation Takes a Vacation by Robin Pulver

back seat, however, content must come first. Conventions are developmental and we should continually work to reinforce the use of good conventions. Conventions are taken care of during the editing stage of writing. Take the conventions out of a piece of writing and show children what happens when the conventions are not there.

- [A Book Takes Root](#) by Michael Kehoe
- [Behind the Mask](#) by Ruth Heller

