**Creating a PICTURE BOOK**

*A picture book is a story told in words and pictures. Each makes an important contribution to the way the story is told and the meaning created.   
  
A picture book is not the same as an illustrated story; there the words alone could tell the story and the illustrations simply break up the words or decorate the text...In the best picture books, the illustrations are absolutely necessary. They carry parts of the story or narrative and in some cases the language is dropped and the pictures alone are all that is needed.*

*A picture book is like a great song. Just as both the tune and the lyrics are needed for a song, both the words and the pictures are needed for a picture book.*

**SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:**

* **Plot**: What is this story about?
* Who are my **characters**? Keep simple.
* **Style**: Way of writing: technical, conversational, personal, traditional: beginning with “Once upon a time…” **Artistic Style**: Cartoon, real, impressionist, folk art?
* **Point of view**: Who is telling this story? A child’s perspective, bird’s eye, middle shot?
* **Setting**: Is the story in the past or the present? Where is the story set?
* **Style**: What kind of **language** will best tell this story? Rhythm, rhyme?
* **Tone:** Subtle, humourous? Excitement, suspense?
* Things that work for me

**ARTISTIC ELEMENTS**

* **Line**: defines objects, suggests movement, distance, curves and circles v’s vertical/diagonal
* **Shape**: organic shapes suggest suppleness, geometric shapes suggest rigidity. Size important.
* **Space**: draws attention to what’s on the page. Lack of space may imply chaos or confusion.
* **Colour**: hue, lightness and intensity
* **Texture**: created by types of illustrations and mediums
* **Composition**: arrangement of visual elements: proportion, balance, harmony/disharmony,

**TECHNICAL POINTS:**

* Number of pages
* Size of pages
* Medium
* Text
* Cover
* End Papers
* Acknowledgements