



## Module Two

# Handout: Character transformation

Does the Hungry Caterpillar stay the same throughout the story? Does Max in *Where the Wild Things Are* end up the way he started? What about Cinderella? Is she always covered in soot, working in the shadow of her evil step-family?

No. Characters change and transform through the story. That, I would argue, is the point of writing a story in the first place.

Just like the *Very Hungry Caterpillar*, your character has to go through a transformation through your picture book story. If in the beginning, they are lonely, by the end they are not. If in the beginning, they are savage, in the end, they are less savage. If in the beginning, they are sad, through the story they work through their grief.

When you are reading picture books, observe how the character transforms through the story. Notice how the illustrator has captured this transformation in the visuals. *Two Blankets*, by Irena Kobald and Freya Blackwood, is a nice example to study. *Cartwheel* begins the story in red and orange tones. By the end, as her new language develops, she is immersed in cool colours, like blue and grey.

Think about how your characters will transform through your story.

