



Module Four

Handout: Narrative, concept, non-fiction, & well-being picture books

Up until now, we have mainly been talking about **narrative picture books**. Narrative picture books tell a story. They generally have one central protagonist, who has a goal and a problem. We follow the 3-act story structure when using the narrative structure.

Some picture books, though, are **concept books**. Your idea might be better suited to a concept book. Concept means idea. So a concept book deals with a single main idea. You don't need a central character. And you don't need to follow the 3-act story structure, as such. Examples of a concept book include *Extraordinary* by Penny Harrison and *We Are All People* by Zanni Louise.

A good concept picture book should:

- Appeal to the child in idea and tone
- Avoid being didactic (too 'teachy' or moralistic)
- Have rhythm that pulls the reader through each story and captivates the young listener
- Be simple and accessible
- Have a structure so it doesn't flat-line.

Always ask: What will keep the reader turning the page?





If you are writing a factual book for kids, this is **non-fiction**. The challenge with non-fiction picture books is creating something that is both accessible and informative. Be creative about ways to share your idea with kids. Look at Philip Bunting's books like *Give Me Some Space* for some great inspiration.

A good non-fiction picture book should:

- Appeal to the child in idea and tone
- Have rhythm that pulls the reader through each story and captivates the young listener
- Be simple and accessible
- Have a structure so it doesn't flat-line.

You might use the end pages (end matter) to expand on an idea. This might include further research, talking points, and activities.

Well-being books are big right now. Well-being books include books like my *Human-Kind* series or *I am feeling ...* by Trace Maroney.

As above, well-being books need to be accessible and child-oriented. Illustrations will help bring kids in. But think about you can do to enchant the young reader while still being useful.

