



Module Four

Task: Literary writing techniques

A picture book is an art form. You can play with language in original and fun ways, ways that reflect story and meaning. You can express your individual voice. Literary picture books tend to be more arthouse. Books that are sold in independent bookstores. These books are often shortlisted for CBCA Awards. Books by Margaret Wild, Mem Fox and Patrick Guest are great examples.

Literary techniques include:

- metaphor: talking about something figuratively: 'all the world is a stage'
- simile: comparing one thing to another: 'the sea was like glass'
- alliteration: two or more words starting with the same letter: 'big, brown bear'
- consonance: use of similar consonants: 'whooshing wind'
- assonance: use of similar vowel sounds: 'blue moon hue'
- repetition: repeat letters, sounds, phrases throughout the story: 'Reuben was too busy sleeping.'

1. Choose two or more picture books and pay attention to the literary devices used. What techniques can you identify?
2. In your journal, try applying each of the above literary techniques to one aspect of your story. It might just be a line or a phrase. It might be a whole scene.
3. Reflect on which techniques you like working with. Also, think about colours and materials you could use in the illustration, which complement the literary technique.

