



Module Four

Task: Rhythm & tone

Whether writing in rhyme or prose, rhythm is so important because picture books are read aloud.

Rhythm can be a hook in itself, e.g. memorable refrains, like these gems by Julia Donaldson: *The mouse saw a nut and the nut looked good* (The Gruffalo)

Let's take a look in the patchwork sack. (Jack and the Flumflum Tree)

Rhythm should be natural, but there are devices you can use such as:

- Rule of three: Big, bad wolf or hop, skip, jump! You can also use the rule of three in the storyline itself and in illustrations!
- Alliteration: big, brown bear, and assonance: blue moon hue.

Vary rhythm through the story: quiet versus fast-paced. A single word on a page can be very dramatic.

Read your work aloud to test rhythm.

1. Find three picture books. Read them aloud. Now in your journal, reflect on the rhythm the author used and how it changes through the story. Maybe you can try copying out the sentence.
2. Write the opening scene of your story, thinking about rhythm.
3. Write the interlude scene of your story, using rhythm (*note: the interlude is the 'blue page' or the 'darkest hour before the dawn'.)
4. Write the climactic scene of your story, thinking about rhythm.
5. In your journal, reflect on how the rhythm changes in each stage of the story.

