



Module Five

Handout: The value of editing

Editing is intended to improve your craft. Some picture book writers edit for months before sending off a work.

Editing:

- Ensures the story is strong
- Ensures characters have strong goals, intentions and motivations
- Ensures the story makes sense
- Proofs for cultural sensitivity and other sensitivity factors
- Improves the line sounds (rhythm, cadence, flow)
- Improves sentence structure
- Ensures the story is easy to read by everyone, regardless of reading ability
- Ensures the text leaves plenty of room for the illustrator
- Ensures work is well-presented in terms of grammar, spelling and punctuation.

If your picture book is acquired by a publisher, you will be assigned an editor who will liaise between you and the illustrator, or if you are the author/illustrator, they will mediate between you and the artistic director to ensure text and illustration are working in harmony. While your editor will help you improve your work, it's important to make your work the best it can be before you submit to a publisher or agent.

