



Module Five

Task: Working with illustrations

One of the most defining features of picture book writing is that the story must work harmoniously with the illustrations. You'll be surprised how many sentences can be removed because the illustrations will be telling the story.

If you aren't illustrating your own text, you need to learn to trust the expertise the illustrator brings to the story. The illustrator is a trained visual storyteller and will add to your story. As writers, we need to step back and let go of what we know to allow for this important collaboration to take place.

Work through your manuscript and try removing the following:

- Any visual description (e.g. what the character or setting looks like). The illustrator will do all this! Each line should be the action only.
- Any details that aren't essential to the story.
- Emotional words, like 'happy' or 'sad'. The illustrator can show all this in the character's expression and body language, also, in their use of colour and materials.

