

# Picture Book Checklist

Creative Writing 2



# When writing a picture book...

- Just like anything else in the world, you need a bit of a plan or a checklist before you sit down to write a picture book.
- The next slide will take you through such a checklist (I recommend using it to work on your picture book).

# The Checklist

1. Maintain a simple, clear plot that is based on a single situation.
2. Tell the story from a child's perspective.
3. Rely on the text to tell your story—illustrations are there to enhance not to be the storyteller.
4. Jump right in! There is no time for long description and detail.
5. Make every word count. Get rid of words that aren't needed. Remember, hit the 500-1,000-word mark.
6. Use interesting language. Don't condescend by using simplistic language. Talk up to the reader—never down.
7. Offer hope to the reader even if the subject matter is sad.