

# Picture Books that Utilise the Seven Steps to Writing Success

## Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Title	Author	Example
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	Judith Viorst	<i>I went to sleep with gum in my mouth and now there's gum in my hair and when I got out of bed this morning I tripped on the skateboard and by mistake I dropped my sweater in the sink while the water was running and I could tell it was going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.</i> (statement)
Cowzat	Bruce Atherton Ben Redlich (Illustrator)	<i>One sunny day Down Under in a paddock by a stream, a herd of cows was eating grass and making milk and cream when one of them – a Jersey cow called Jenny Bramble Rose – began to twitch because she sniffed a cricket up her nose.</i> (statement)
Diary of a Wombat	Jackie French Bruce Whatley (Illustrator)	This picture book is written as diary entries. <i>Monday. Morning: Slept. Afternoon: Slept. Evening: Ate grass. Scratched. Night: Ate grass. Slept.</i> (statement)
Falling Angels	Colin Thompson	<i>The first time Sally flew was before she could even crawl.</i> (statement)
Fox	Margaret Wild Ron Brooks (Illustrator)	<i>Through the charred forest, over the hot ash, runs dog, with a bird clamped in his big, gentle mouth.</i> (statement)
How to Heal a Broken Wing	Bob Graham	<i>High above the city, no one heard a soft thud of feathers against glass.</i> (statement)
It's a Book	Lane Smith	<i>What have you got there?</i> (question)
La Rue for Mayor	Mark Teague	This picture book includes newspaper articles and letters from the campaign trail and begins with a statement. <i>Bugwort Launches Campaign for Mayor</i> <i>Former Pumpkinville police chief Hugo Bugwort announced yesterday that he will run for mayor of Snort City.</i> (statement)
Last Tree in the City	Peter Carnavas	<i>Edward lived in the city. It was a place of concrete and cars, a world without colour.</i> (statement)
"Let's Get a Pup!"	Bob Graham	<i>"Let's get a pup!" said Kate.</i> (dialogue)
Peggy	Anna Walker	<i>Peggy lived in a small house in a quiet street.</i> (statement)
Sophie Scott Goes South	Alison Lester	<i>Woo hoo! I'm going to Antarctica.</i> (sound effect / dialogue)
Stolen Girl	Trina Saffioti Norma MacDonald (Illustrator)	<i>She wakes to the sound of the bell ringing and stumbles out of bed.</i> (statement)
Sunday Chutney	Aaron Blabey	<i>I'm Sunday Chutney ... and I'm a bit unusual.</i> (statement)
The Lost Thing	Shaun Tan	<i>So you want to hear a story?</i> (question)
The Paw	Natalie Jane Prior Terry Denton (Illustrator)	<i>During the day, Leonie was a schoolgirl. At night, she was a cat-burglar.</i> (statement)
The Red Piano	André Leblanc Barroux (Illustrator)	<i>Zhangjiake Camp 46-19 on China's border with Inner Mongolia is blighted by an eerie moonlight.</i> (statement)
The Red Tree	Shaun Tan	<i>Sometimes the day begins with nothing to look forward to... and things go from bad to worse... darkness overcomes you... nobody understands... the world is a deaf machine, without sense or reason.</i> (statement)
The Serpent's Tale	Gary Crew Matt Ottley (Illustrator)	<i>"I want that amulet," the boy said.</i> (dialogue)
The Terrible Suitcase	Emma Allen Freya Blackwood (Illustrator)	<i>Because I got a terrible suitcase for my going-to-school present instead of the red backpack with yellow rockets and a silver zipper, I was mad. M A D, mad!</i> (statement)
The Three Billy Goats Fluff	Rachael Mortimer	Trip-trap Trip-trap (sound effect)
"The Trouble With Dogs!"	Bob Graham	<i>"The trouble with dogs," said Dad, "is that they take over your life. Run the show."</i> (dialogue)
The Two Bullies	Junko Morimoto	<i>Do you know the big statue called Ni-ou that stands by the temple?</i> (question)
Too Many Elephants In This House	Ursula Dubosarsky Andrew Joyner (Illustrator)	<i>In Eric's house there were too many elephants.</i> (statement)
Unforgotten	Tohby Riddle	<i>Nobody knows where they come from. But they come.</i> (statement)
When Frank was Four	Alison Lester	<i>When Nicky was one she tipped spaghetti on her head.</i> (statement)
Yikes! In Seven Wild Adventures, Who Would You Be?	Alison Lester	<i>In a raging storm at sea... who would you be?</i> (question)

### Step 3: Tightening Tension

Title	Author	Example
Can I Keep Him?	Steven Kellogg	<u>Repetition</u> Mum gives reasons Arnold can't keep each pet he finds. Each new reason is added, creating a list and building tension. <i>"He doesn't bark, he has no fur, he has no hoofs, he smells like us, he doesn't eat much, he doesn't shed..."</i>
Diary of a Wombat	Jackie French Bruce Whatley (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition</u> The word 'slept' is repeated throughout the text. Diary entries: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday (tension builds over the week)
Oi! Get Off Our Train	John Burningham	<u>Repetition</u> <i>"Oi! Get off our train."</i> <i>"Please let me come with you on your train."</i>
Possum Magic	Mem Fox Julie Vivas (Illustrator)	<u>Rule of Three</u> Vegemite sandwich = tail (1) Pavlova = legs and body (2) Lamington = head (3)
Puffling	Margaret Wild Julie Vivas (Illustrator)	<u>Rule of Three</u> Puffling wants to leave the burrow but is told he has to be strong enough (1), tall enough (2) and brave enough (3). <i>The next morning Puffling asked, "Am I strong enough yet?"</i> <i>"Am I tall enough yet?" asked Puffling.</i> <i>"Am I brave enough yet?" asked Puffling.</i> 'Strong enough, tall enough, brave enough' is repeated four times throughout the text.
Ships in the Field	Susanne Gervay Anna Pignataro (Illustrator)	<u>Rule of Three</u> <i>Papa sings (1). Brownie sings (2). Ma sings (3).</i> <i>I see it (1). Papa sees it (2). Brownie sees it (3).</i> <i>We smile (1) and smile (2) and smile (3).</i>
Sunday Chutney	Aaron Blabey	<u>Rule of Three</u> <i>But mostly I find travel to be wonderfully glamorous... which is why I know my future definitely lies in fashion design (1). Or soccer (2). Or space travel (3).</i> <i>BUT if you ask me, boys smell (1), have germs (2) and probably love me (3).</i>
Tadpole's Promise	Jeanne Willis Tony Ross (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition</u> The tadpole keeps promising his caterpillar that he will not change, a promise the audience knows he will not be able to keep. Tension is built as the tadpole grows legs, loses his tail and turns into a frog.
Tanglewood	Margaret Wild Vivienne Goodman (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition / Rule of Three</u> The phrase "I am here! Come and ..." is repeated to the seals (1), birds (2) and dolphins (3). <i>"Will you rest in my shade (1), will you nest in my branches (2), will you talk to me (3)?"</i>
The Bad-tempered Ladybird	Eric Carle	<u>Repetition</u> <i>"Hey you," said the bad-tempered ladybird. "Want to fight?"</i> <i>"If you insist," said the ...</i> <i>"Oh, you're not big enough," said the bad-tempered ladybird and flew off.</i>
The Coat	Julie Hunt Ron Brooks (Illustrator)	<u>Rule of Three</u> <i>The coat played fast spinning music that made him want to dance (1). It played heartbreaking gipsy tunes that made tears stand in his eyes (2). It played crazy circus music that turned him upside down (3).</i>
The Great Bear	Libby Gleeson Armin Greder (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition / Rule of Three</u> <i>Cymbals clash, clash, clash.</i> <i>Stones strike, strike, strike.</i>
The Gruffalo	Julia Donaldson Axel Scheffler (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition</u> <i>"A gruffalo? What's a gruffalo?"</i> <i>"A gruffalo? Why, didn't you know?"</i> <u>Rule of Three</u> <i>"Silly old fox (1) / owl (2) / snake (3)! Doesn't he know there's no such thing as a gruffalo?"</i>

The Little Refugee	Anh Do and Suzanne Do Bruce Whatley (Illustrator)	<u>Rule of Three</u> <i>It's a crazy place – strange food (1), snakes in bottles (2), five people squashed onto the back of one little motorbike (3)!</i> <i>Lots of them were soldiers (1), but some were mothers and fathers (2), and some were even children (3).</i> <i>[Anh] couldn't speak English very well (1), ... [had] different food (2) ... [and] didn't have the right uniform (3).</i>
The Rabbits	John Marsden Shaun Tan (Illustrator)	<u>Rule of Three</u> They looked a bit like us (1). There weren't many of them (2). Some were friendly (3). They ate our grass (1). They chopped down our trees (2) and scared away our friends (3). Rabbits (1), rabbits (2), rabbits (3).
We're Going on a Bear Hunt	Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition</u> <i>We can't go under it. We can't go over it. Oh no! We've got to go through it!</i> <i>Back through the ...</i> <u>Rule of Three</u> <i>Tiptoe! (1) Tiptoe! (2) Tiptoe! (3)</i> <i>One shiny wet nose! (1) Two big furry ears! (2) Two big goggly eyes! (3)</i>
Who Sank the Boat?	Pamela Allen	<u>Repetition</u> <i>Do you know who sank the boat?</i>
Who's in the Loo?	Jeanne Willis Adrian Reynolds (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition</u> <i>Is it ... ? Perhaps it's ...</i> The text goes through numerous possibilities of who is in the loo. Who could be left? The rhythm and rhyme help build tension.
Wombat Stew	Marcia K. Vaughan Pamela Lofts (Illustrator)	<u>Repetition</u> <i>Wombat stew, wombat stew, gooey, brewy, yummy, chewy, wombat stew!</i> <u>Rule of Three</u> The adjectives used in the third and fourth lines of the verse change three times: - <i>Goosey, brewy, yummy, chewy (1)</i> <i>Crunchy, munchy, for my lunchy (2)</i> <i>Hot and spicy, oh so nicey (3)</i>

### Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Title	Author	Example
A Bad Case of Stripes	David Shannon	<i>"I'm sorry, Mrs Cream," he said. "I'm going to have to ask you to keep Camilla home from school. She's just too much of a distraction and I've been getting calls from the other parents. They're afraid those stripes may be contagious."</i> <i>"Hmmm ... well ... yes... I see. I think I'd better bring in the specialists. We'll be right over."</i>
Can I Keep Him?	Steven Kellogg	<i>"Alaska? When were you ever in Alaska? And who ever heard of a dinosaur for a pet?"</i> <i>"But I'm lonely. Will you play with me?"</i> <i>"I'd like to, Arnold, but I'm busy."</i>
Courtney	John Burningham	<i>"What on earth have you got there?" said the parents. "Why didn't you get a proper dog? He's old and he's a mongrel, not a pedigree, like we said."</i>
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus	Mo Willems	A pigeon tries to convince the audience that he should be allowed to drive the bus. <i>"What's the problem?! It's just a bus!!! I have dreams, you know! Fine."</i>
Fox	Margaret Wild Ron Brooks (Illustrator)	<i>"Fly, dog, fly! I will be your missing eye, and you will be my wings."</i>
I Wanna Iguana	Karen Kaufman Orloff	Alex and his mum write letters to each other debating why and why he should not get an iguana. <i>"Did you know that iguanas are really quiet and they're cute too. I think they are much cuter than hamsters."</i> <i>"Tarantulas are quiet too, but I wouldn't want one as a pet. By the way, that iguana of Mikey's is uglier than Godzilla."</i>
John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat	Jenny Wagner Ron Brooks (Illustrator)	<i>"I'm sick," said Rose. "I'm staying in bed."</i> <i>"All day?" said John Brown.</i> <i>"All day and for ever," said Rose.</i>

The Coat	Julie Hunt Ron Brooks (Illustrator)	<i>"Let the show begin!" the coat announced. "I'm no performer," said the man. "Yes you are," said the coat.</i>
The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash	Trinka Hakes Noble Steven Kellogg (Illustrator)	<i>"How was your class trip to the farm?" "Oh... boring... kind of dull... until the cow started crying." "A cow... crying?" "Yeah, you see, a haystack fell on her." "But a haystack doesn't just fall over." "It does if a farmer crashes into it with his tractor." "Oh, come on, a farmer wouldn't do that."</i>
Wilfred Gorden McDonald Partridge	Mem Fox Julie Vivas (Illustrator)	Wilfred asks his neighbours at the old people's home what a memory is. <i>"Something warm, my child, something warm." "Something from long ago, me lad, something from long ago." "Something that makes you cry, my boy, something that makes you cry." "Something as precious as gold, young man, something as precious as gold."</i>
Wombat Stew	Marcia K. Vaughan Pamela Lofts (Illustrator)	<i>"If you ask me," said Platypus, "the best thing for a gooey stew is mud. Big blops of mud." "Blops of mud?" Dingo laughed. "What a good idea. Righto, in they go!"</i>

### Step 5: Show, Don't Tell

Title	Author	Example
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus	Mo Willems	A pigeon tries to convince the audience that he should be allowed to drive the bus. The illustrations are important in showing how the pigeon is feeling. <i>"I'll be your best friend. How 'bout I give you a fiver? No fair! I bet your mum would let me."</i> Expand the dialogue by adding, <i>said the pigeon, as he ...</i> eg: "I'll be your best friend," said the pigeon as he clasped his hands together and looked sweetly towards the sky. <i>"No fair!"</i> complained the pigeon, as he slumped onto the ground and folded his arms.
Flotsam	David Wiesner	The illustrations in this comic are important as there is no text. It is a book about a boy who goes to the beach to collect and examine flotsam – anything that has been washed ashore. Ask students to select an illustration and write a sentence or two showing how the boy's feelings and intentions are depicted.
Limpopo Lullaby	Jane Jolly Dee Huxley (Illustrator)	The following sentences show, rather than tell, that there was a drought, a flood and that Josette was pregnant. <i>As the dark clouds dropped their precious cargo, his toes began to dance in the red dust, leaving freckled patterns on the dry, thirsty earth. At dawn, as the sun tried in vain to push its way through the clouds, the villagers awoke to a swollen chocolate sea rushing past their doorways. She rubbed her tummy tenderly, as her dress soaked up the rain.</i>
Stanley Paste	Aaron Blabey	What scenarios does the illustrator show to highlight some of the problems Stanley Paste experienced? How do they make him feel? <i>He was too small to get picked for sport and too small to defend himself. And they were the least of his problems...</i> What scenarios does the illustrator depict to show that Charlie Parsley and Eleanor Cabbage experienced fewer problems when they were together? <i>When the two of them were together, they just didn't seem to have as many problems.</i>
The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, The Bard	Gregory Rogers	The illustrations in this comic are important as there is no text. Ask students to select a frame and write a sentence or two showing how the characters' feelings and intentions are depicted. eg: The boy tentatively opened the door and looked, wide-eyed, around the room, his soccer ball tucked firmly under his arm. The audience members opened their mouths wide, in surprise, confusion and amusement.
The Coat	Julie Hunt Ron Brooks (Illustrator)	What effect did the coat have on the man? How did it make him feel? What does the text suggest? What does the text show us about the effect the music had on the man? <i>The coat played fast spinning music that made him want to dance. It</i>

		<i>played heartbreaking gipsy tunes that made tears stand in his eyes. It played crazy circus music that turned him upside down.</i>
The Snowman	Raymond Briggs	The illustrations in this comic are important as there is no text. Ask students to select a frame and write a sentence or two showing how the boy and the snowman's feelings and intentions are depicted.
Tuesday	David Wiesner	The illustrations in this comic are important as there is no text. In this picture book, frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air and explore nearby houses while the inhabitants sleep. Ask students to select an illustration and write a sentence or two showing how the frogs' feelings and intentions are depicted.
Voices in the Park	Anthony Browne	What do the following statements show us about the character? <i>Immediately some scruffy mongrel appeared and started bothering [our dog, Victoria]. I shooed it off, but the horrible thing chased her all over the park.</i> <i>You get some frightful types in the park these days!</i> <i>Then I saw him talking to a very rough-looking child.</i>
Wave	Suzy Lee	The illustrations in this comic are important as there is no text. In this picture book, In the picture books, a girl spends a day at the beach, engaging in imaginative play with the waves. The illustrations are drawn in grey and vibrant blue. Ask students to select an illustration and write a sentence or two showing how the girl's feelings and intentions are depicted.
Willy the Wimp	Anthony Browne	What does the text show us about Willy's personality? <i>Willy wouldn't hurt a fly. Willy worried about stepping on tiny insects every time he went for a walk. When someone knocked into him, he always said, "Oh, I'm sorry!" Even when it wasn't his fault.</i>

### Step 7: Exciting Endings

Title	Author	Example
Billy the Punk	Jessica Carroll Craig Smith (Illustrator)	On Monday, Billy sees punks at the markets and inspired to become one. On Saturday, Billy visits the army barracks and sees Scots soldiers. <i>On Monday Billy asked his sister if he could borrow her tartan skirt.</i>
Boys Are Best	Manuela Olten	Two boys discuss how silly girls are. The boys mention ghosts and end up scaring themselves. The final pages show the boys doing the things they laughed at the girls for doing.
Can I Keep Him?	Steven Kellogg	After asking his mum if he can keep the animals he finds, including a dog, kitten, fawn, bear, cubs, snake and dinosaur, Arnold ends up finding a boy and asks if he can keep him.
Grandad's Teeth	Rod Clement	Grandad loses his false teeth, resulting in the police investigating, wanted posters being erected, a television show about it and everyone in the community smiling constantly to prove they didn't have Grandad's teeth. <i>In fact they were so happy that Grandad's old dog, Gump, smiled too. For the first time, EVER!</i> (The illustration is of the dog grinning with the false teeth in his mouth.)
Mrs Hunnicutt's Hat	Jeff Brumbeau Gail de Marcken (Illustrator)	Mrs Hunnicutt decides to wear her new hat, which has a chicken on top of it, for the Queen's arrival. The villagers are horrified! However, the Queen has a hat with a turkey on top and she requests to swap it with Mrs Hunnicutt.
Roberta and Me	Sibylle and Jurgen Reickhoff Vera Muller (Translator)	A girl from the city decides a sheep is the best pet for her. It doesn't work out as well as she had hoped so she gives Roberta back to the farmer. <i>But one day I am sure ... I will get another pet!</i> The final page mirrors the illustration on the first page but the sheep has been replaced by a cow.
Tadpole's Promise	Jeanne Willis Tony Ross (Illustrator)	A tadpole falls in love with a caterpillar but they both begin to change and he doesn't recognise her as a butterfly. "And there he waits... thinking fondly of his beautiful rainbow...wondering where she went."
Tanglewood	Margaret Wild Vivienne Goodman (Illustrator)	<i>"We bring you family," she said.</i> The final sentence is linked to the previous conversation between Tanglewood and Seagull about family.
The Great Bear	Libby Gleeson Armin Greder (Illustrator)	The final word in the picture book is <i>ROAR!</i> The remaining 6 double pages are wordless.

The Peasant Prince	Li Cunxin Anne Spudvilas (Illustrator)	The peasant boy retells his favourite story that his father used to tell him, about a little frog that spent his whole life trying to escape from a well. The text concludes with the peasant boy comparing his life with the frog's.
The Red Piano	André Leblanc Barroux (Illustrator)	The first and final sentences of the picture book refer to the moonlight. Introduction: <i>Zhangjiake Camp 46-19 on China's border with Inner Mongolia is blighted by an eerie moonlight.</i> Ending: <i>She leaves beneath the pale light of the moon, clutching only her tiny, surviving notebook.</i>
Too Many Elephants In This House	Ursula Dubosarsky Andrew Joyner (Illustrator)	The final page shows a small box, implying the size and adventures of the elephants throughout the text were not real.
Too Many Pears	Jackie French Bruce Whatley (Illustrator)	Pamela the cow loves pears until she overindulges. <i>Pamela was gazing at the apples!</i>
Unforgotten	Tohby Riddle	The final sentence links with the introduction where the author states that nobody knows where they come from. <i>And where it goes, nobody knows.</i>
Where the Forest Meets the Sea	Jeannie Baker	A boy explores the rainforest but wonders about its future. <i>But will the forest still be here when we come back?</i>
Who's in the Loo?	Jeanne Willis Adrian Reynolds (Illustrator)	The text goes through numerous possibilities of who is in the loo. Who could be left? <i>We heard a small voice. It said, "I'm in the loo! I'm just doing what my mum told me to do... But it takes me forever. No one understands." It was octopus washing his eight little hands.</i>