

30 Ways of Working Inside and Outside Picture Books

Using Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers help us focus on important concepts and see how these concepts are interrelated. Graphic organizers enable readers to identify, recall, and organize details, ideas, and relationships within a picture book using a simple visual format. See the colored boxes over the next few pages for some graphic organizers you might find useful.

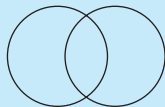
OUT LOUD

- Work alone or with others to read the book out loud (e.g., audiobook, readers theatre).
- Retell the story. Retell the story in role.
- Work with others in a Literature Circle to summarize, raise questions, share connections, consider vocabulary, exchange opinions.

Venn Diagram

Useful for making text-to-text connections. Use to compare two books that you have read.

- In the left side of the first circle, list the text features and story elements of one book. In the right side of the second circle, list the story elements of the other book. In the middle overlapping section, list the similarities between the two books.



AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR STUDY

- Prepare a list of items that books by an author or illustrator have in common: *How to recognize a book by* _____
- Use a graphic organizer (e.g., Venn Diagram) to compare one or more titles by the author/illustrator.
- Use the Internet to gather and report information about the author/illustrator. Present a profile of your research subject.

WORD POWER

- Investigate new words, favorite words. Create a glossary for the picture book.
- Go on a word hunt for words focusing on a spelling concept (e.g. words of more than three syllables, capitalized words, double consonants) or grammar (e.g., adjectives, verbs).
- Collect sentences or passages that interest you. Create a bulletin board display of these snippets from picture books.

ABC Grid

Work alone or in groups to brainstorm items for each square in the grid. Give yourself permission to leave squares blank, if needed.

- List vocabulary words
- List the titles of picture books
- List the names of picture book story characters
- Prepare an ABC list of ABC books
- List the names of favorite picture book authors and illustrators

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
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ILLUSTRATING

- Isolate a sentence (or two); create an illustration to accompany this snippet.
- Study the illustrations, considering the medium used by the illustrator and the technique he or she uses to create visual images. Imitating the style of the artist, create an illustration that might have been included in the book.
- Transform the story or part of the story into a graphic text (i.e., comic strip).

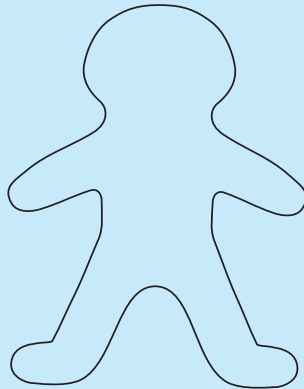
WRITTEN RESPONSE

- Summarize the book. What will you tell others about the book in 100 words? 50 words? 25 words?
- Imagine you are a character in the story: what will a diary entry or letter from this character's point of view reveal about this character?

Character Outline

Use this graphic organizer to write words about a character from a picture book you've read.

- Record things that this character did and said on the outside of the outline.
- List words that describe the different feelings that this character might have had throughout the story inside the outline.



- Hitch-hike with the author by preparing a sequel to the book. Or hitch-hike on the pattern, theme, or story to create a new picture book.

DRAMA EXPLORATION

- Prepare a dramatization of the book using improvisation or tableaux.
- Work in role to interview characters who appear in the story. Consider a character who does not appear in the story that you would like to hear from.
- Go forward or backward in time to prepare a scene that would explain a situation in the picture book.

PICTURE STUDY

- Inspect one illustration from the picture book. Prepare a list of all the things you see in the picture.
- Choose one illustration from the book. What does this picture make you think about? What does it make you wonder about, or feel?
- If you needed to eliminate two (or three) illustrations from this picture book, which would you choose? Why?

REVIEW

- Prepare an oral or written review of the book to share with others. Your review can be videotaped, posted on a class website, or run in the class newsletter.
- Create a poster to advertise this book.
- After completing A Close-Up Look at a Picture Book (page 26), work in pairs or small groups to discuss picture books you've read.

GET GRAPHIC WITH ORGANIZERS

- Create a storyboard to show significant events in the story.
- Create a web to tell others about the book: e.g., characters, setting, problem, etc.
- Use *For Art's Sake* on page 16 and *A Close-Up Look at a Picture Book* on page 26 to share your response to a book.

Wonder Web

Use a web to brainstorm ideas and questions about a picture book.

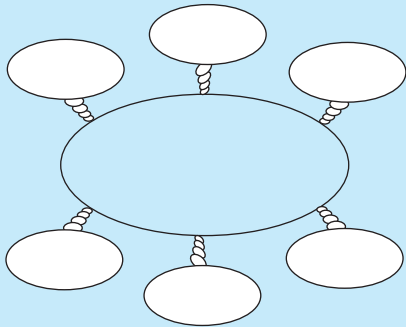
- List some questions that you had about this picture book before, during, and after reading the story. Prompts might help you think about things that you wondered about:

I wonder...

What if...

Why did...

How did...



FURTHER READING

- Use the Internet to learn more about the author and the book, to read reviews for the book, etc.
- Collect additional books by the author, or books related by theme or topic. Prepare an annotated bibliography of 6–10 titles: *If you liked this book, then you might want to read _____*. Final bibliography lists can be collected in a binder to be shared with others.
- Read the picture book to someone. Remember to rehearse first!

Storyboard Sequence

Imagine that the picture book you have read is going to be made into a movie. Use words or pictures (or both) to record a sequence of events from this picture book.

- Use three frames to record one scene from the beginning, one from the middle, and one from the end of the story.
- Create a more detailed storyboard, telling the story in six or nine frames.

