

There's More than One Way to Write a Picture Book

Have you ever perused a bookstore and discovered a picture book that made you stop and say, "I wish I'd thought of that!" Yep, me too. And, every time I find myself saying that, it's because that picture book is told in a very different, unconventional, totally original way. Let's take a look at ten types of picture books and learn how to think outside the typical picture book box.

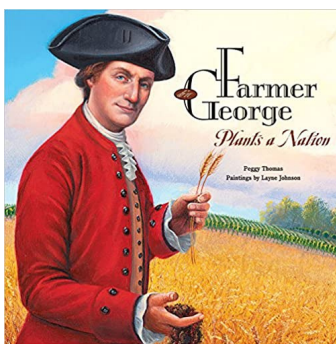
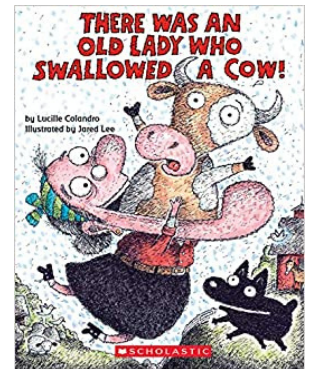


An Unlikely POV

Example: "School's First Day of School" by Adam Rex and "If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks" by Faith Ringgold

A Story that Builds—Taking an Original Cumulative Story and Making it Your Own!

Example: "The Book that Jake Borrowed" by Susan Kralovansky based on "The House that Jack Built" by Little Golden Books and "There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Cow!" by Lucille Colandro (Whole series now...who swallowed some books, a birthday cake, some leaves, a frog, a clover, etc.) based on "There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly"

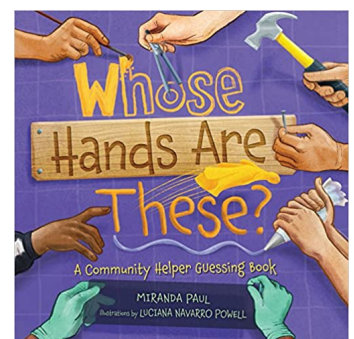


A Little Known Fact that Fuels an Entire Book

"Farmer George Plants a Nation" by Peggy Thomas tells the story of President George Washington—focusing on accomplishments you probably never knew about George; and "Henry Ford Grows a Car" by Peggy Thomas that shares about what we didn't know about Ford—his obsession with soybeans.

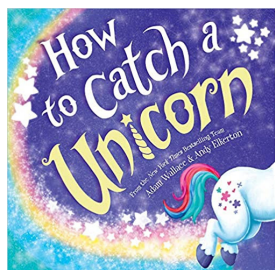
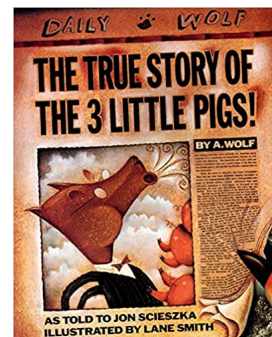
A Story Written as a Question

Example: "Whose Hands Are These?" by Miranda Paul and "Whose Tools Are These?" by Sharon Katz Cooper



A Fairytale with a twist/A Fractured fairytale

Example: "Cinderelphant" by Emma Dodd and "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs" by Jon Scieszka and "Believe me, Goldilocks Rocks!" by Nancy Loewen

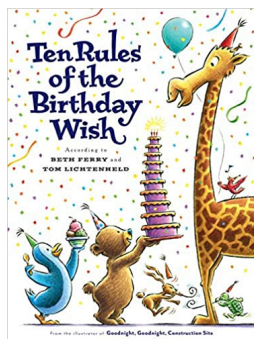
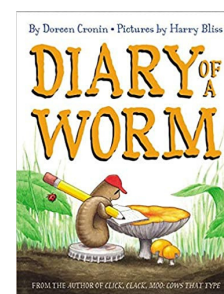


A How-to Book that's ridiculously fun

Example: "How to Catch a Unicorn" by Adam Wallace and "How to Grow a Dinosaur" by Jill Esbaum and "How to Babysit a Grandma" by Jean Reagan

An Account of events via a Diary or a Journal or Letters

Example: "Diary of a Worm" by Doreen Cronin and "Dear Mrs. LaRue" by Mark Teague and "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt

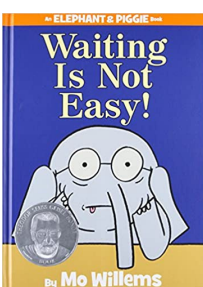
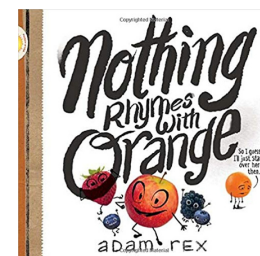


David Letterman Style—Top Ten Lists or Some variation of that

Example: "Ten Rules of the Birthday Wish" by Beth Ferry and "17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore" by Jenny Offill

A Gimmick or Punchline that Carries the book

"Nothing Rhymes with Orange" by Adam Rex and "The Book with No Pictures" by B.J. Novak



Say it all in dialogue

Example: "I Don't Want to be a Frog" by Dev Petty and most Mo Willems books such as, "Waiting is Not Easy!"