**2023 FCWC Children’s Writing Intensive**

**The Importance of Carefully Crafted Page Turns**

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**The Importance of Carefully Crafted Page Turns**

Definition of a page turner: A book so exciting or gripping that one is compelled to read it very rapidly.
So a page turn in a picture book is this…the reason we want to turn the page and read more!

Why are page turns so important?

Because they help you:

\*set up a joke

\*surprise the reader or even “fool” your reader

\*create anticipation

\*transition to a different location or a different time

\*offer “a breath” (some relief) after a very emotional scene

SO how do we accomplish a good page turn?

The following words work well in picture books:

But…

Until…

Suddenly…

When…

Then…

More reasons (with examples we’ll go over in class) to incorporate the all-powerful page turn in your picture books…

\*Page Turns can immediately grab the reader’s attention—helps you jump right into the action.

\*Page Turns really help you set up the perfect “plot twist”

\*Page Turns build suspense, creates lots of tension and anticipation

\*Page Turns can pull one over on your reader…like you think you know what is going to happen and then you turn the page and it’s so NOT what the reader expected. This is funny for kids.

\*Page Turns can make readers worry/care about the main character…like what is going to happen to the main character?!

\*Page Turns can set up the sweetest, most incredible endings (love when the last line “points” to the first line—bookending it)