

PICTURE INTERPRETATION

Points for discussion:

- 1. What is happening in this picture?** Does it add meaning to the story or does it tell a completely different story to the text?
- 2. Does the picture remind you of an event** in any other story or anything that has happened to you in real life?
- 3. What would it be like to be there?** Look carefully and describe where you (the reader) are – (close up or far away?). **Why** do you think the illustrator has placed the reader in this location?
- 4. How do you feel** when you look at this picture? How does the illustrator create this **mood** or **emotion** for the readers?
- 5. How has the illustrator created this picture?** Comment on the **artistic style**, the use of particular **art materials** and **techniques**.



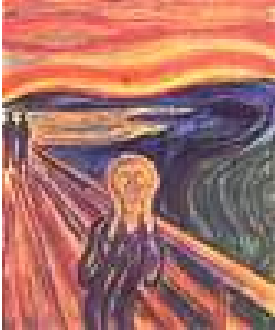
What is artistic style?





Artistic style is the arrangement of elements into a visual image. These elements are:

- line
- space
- colour
- shape
- perspective
- texture

A picture book illustrator uses an appropriate style to enhance and extend the meaning of the written text.

Picture books often contain these styles:

STYLE	CHARACTERISTICS
<p>Realism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents the world as we actually see it more than other styles do • gives the important details which typify the object or event • outlines are clear and exact • may be more concerned with anatomy and details than with inner nature • details are three-dimensional and proportional; perspective makes the viewer feel like he/she is seeing it in real life • the picture has vitality; it does not seem frozen in time or space. <p>e.g. Manet–French artist</p>
<p>Impressionism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • primarily concerned with properties and proportions of light and colour • often places dots or slashes of unmixed colour next to one another to simulate natural light • creates an illustration of a scene which a viewer then recreates with his/her eyes • distances viewer by placing him/her outside the action, yet draws them in with luminous beauty; often dreamlike • not concerned with recording minute details • concerned with a momentary, fleeting impression; records a spontaneous, personal, individual response to a specific situation • emphasises vibrant character of animate and inanimate objects; produces living, palpitating shadows. <p>e.g. Impressionism–art style</p>
<p>Expressionism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses unusual or shocking colours, with rough rapid brushwork • figures are often distorted or out of proportion; may be heavily outlined • emphasis is on artist's own self-expression, his/her uninhibited emotional expression • concern for essence of subject; attention is focused on structural qualities rather than outward details • leans toward abstraction; more undisciplined than realism or impressionism. <p>e.g. Expressionism: art select</p>
<p>Surrealism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • depends more on subject than technique • combines incongruous images in unnatural juxtaposition • often uses meticulously detailed realism to make the scene believable • attempts to tap the store of hidden images in the viewer's mind

 <p>Google images</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • often highly romantic or fanciful • uses many symbolic visual references • combines colours, forms, and textures in truly unique ways. <p>e.g. Salvador Dali posters</p>
<p>Folk Art</p>  <p>Google images</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • artistic expressions of folk cultures from every part of the world; may reflect ethnic, national, or religious groups • art of peoples or cultures with no writing system who record their culture through art • often representative of rural or peasant communities; such groups are usually isolated from principal centres of culture and thus have developed their own continuous tradition • motifs, symbols, and decorative patterns of the culture are used by the artist, but adaptations may be made • often includes a simplification of line, colour, space, and volume; uses simplified line and abstracted forms for symbols of plants and animals. <p>e.g. Warren Kimble posters</p>
<p>Naïve Art</p>  <p>Google images</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • often found in untrained or self-taught artists • creates forms outside of the rules of accepted artistic principles; shows a lack of knowledge of artistic conventions such as perspective • often shows a broad scene without use of perspective; figures are usually frontal posture or profile • may have a child-like quality, and a disregard of anatomy • represents essence of things from the artist's own experience • characterised by openness, spontaneity, intensity • sometimes resembles folk art. <p>e.g. Katy Edwards naïve art</p>
<p>Cartoon Style</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • playful distortion of basic structure of object or anatomy of person or animal; gross exaggeration, flat painted figures • lively line creates movement and humour; shows movement and vitality • juxtaposes circumstances in playful ways; incongruous and incompatible characteristics and situations are depicted • object is humour, sometimes mockery. <p>e.g. Gentleman Briggs</p>
<p>Collage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • really a technique, but often spoken of as if it were a style



- made up of pictures, objects, or paper pasted on the background
- uses natural objects and other non-painting objects
- image is completed by drawing or painting on the collage
- often combined with other techniques.

Collage art gallery

e.g. [Collage art gallery](#)

Created by Cath Keane

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