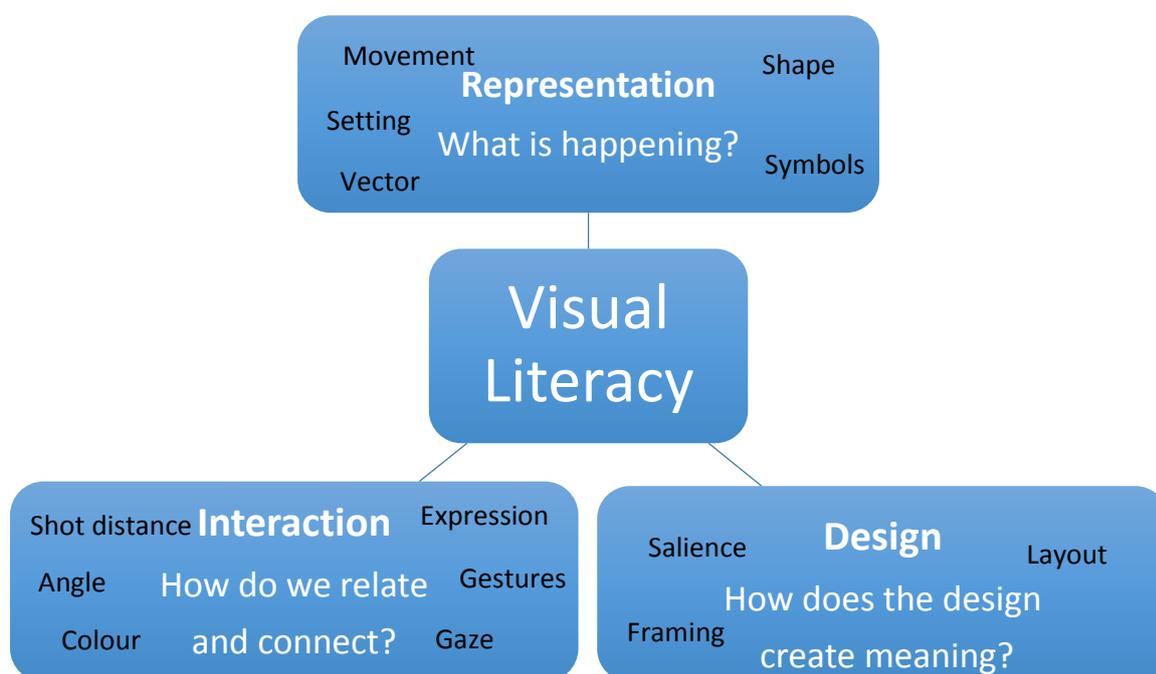


# Tips for Viewing Images in Picture Books

*Using language to respond to images in picture books.*



Adapted from Forrest, 2017; Callow, 2013; & McDonald, 2013

*Visual Literacy* helps us understand and describe features of a picture that create visual meaning. We learn who or what is in the picture, the activities involved, interactions between characters, emotions, and how the image catches our attention. We can learn to discover by looking deeper and thinking about what we see. Visual literacy is also referred to as visual grammar and visual language.

## Representation

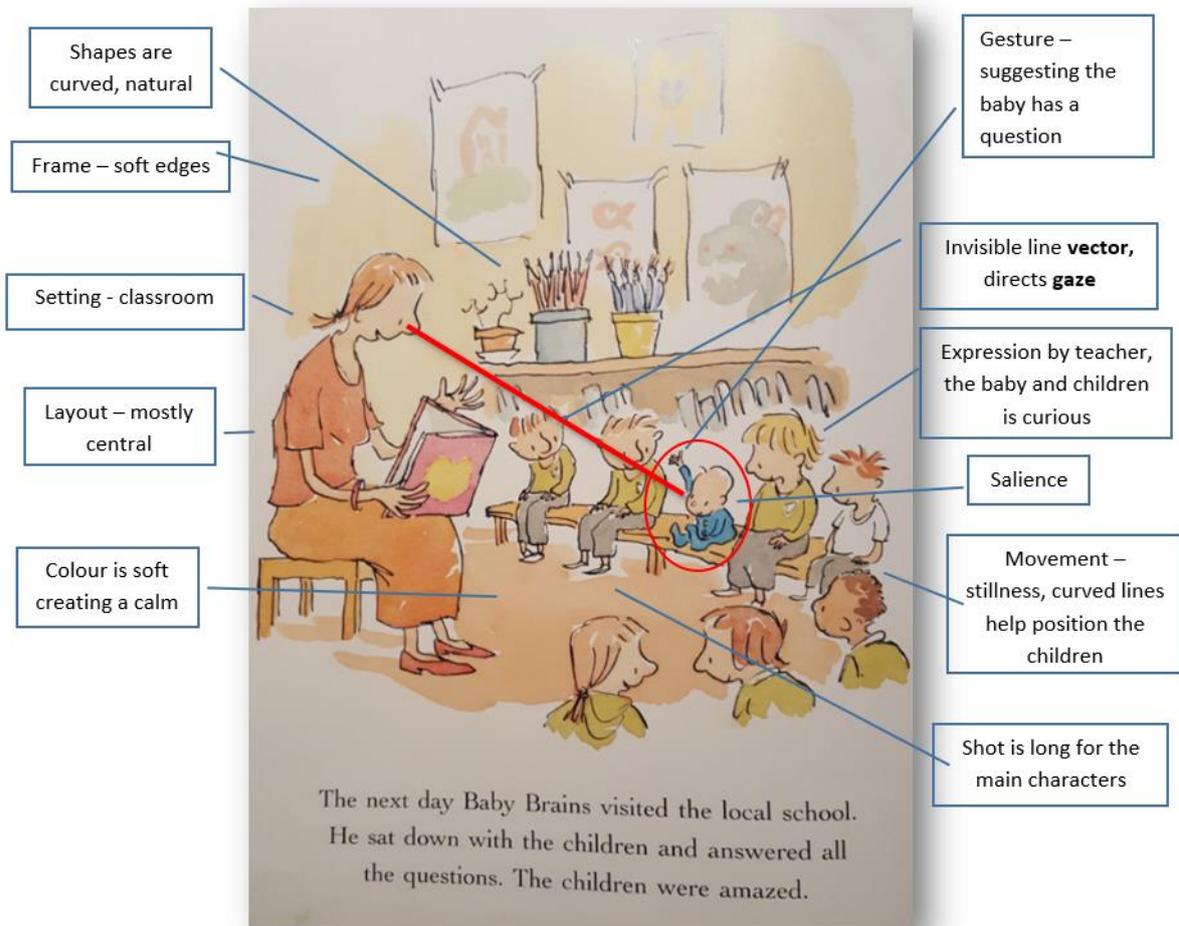
- **Setting:** where is the image set?
- **Movement:** curving lines suggest action, diagonal lines create a slope ascending (upward) or descending (downward) motion.
- **Vector:** a line that leads your eye from one part of the picture to another. It can be visible or invisible line, straight or curved and often shows where a character is looking or gazing.
- **Shape:** curved shapes are seen as more natural, straight-edged shapes such as squares or rectangles are more machine-like.
- **Symbols:** objects that represent other ideas.

## Interaction

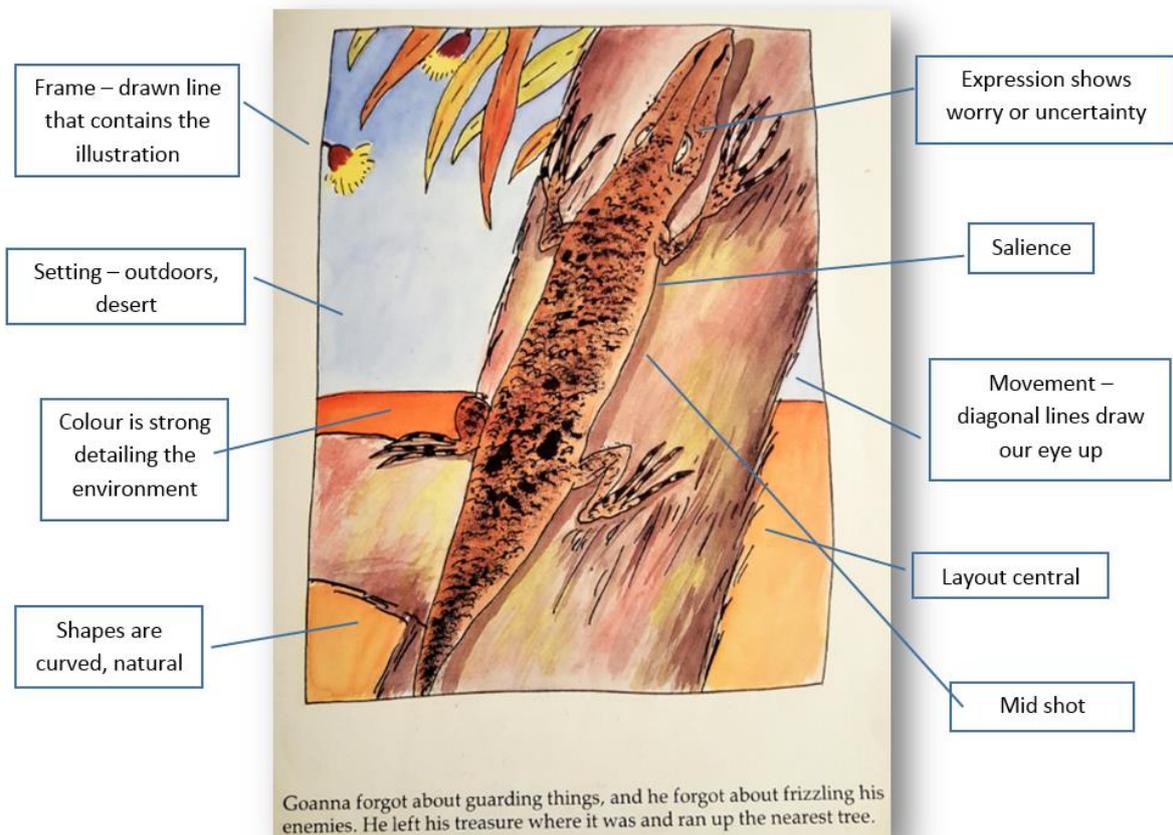
- **Gaze:** where the character is looking. *Demand* a character looks out at the viewer, demanding your attention. *Offer* the character is not looking at the viewer and you are encouraged to look around the picture.
- **Expression:** a character's look showing feelings and emotion.
- **Gestures:** movement of the hand, face or body that shows an idea or emotion.
- **Angles:** create importance of a character. Angles can be high, low or eye level. *Low angle* - the onlooker is low looking up at the image, a tall powerful character, high cliffs or tall building. *High angle* - the onlooker is looking down at the image. *Eye level* - an equal view between the image and onlooker.
- **Shot distance:** the distance of the character on the page connects a relationship with the onlooker. A *close shot* shows face or head and shoulders and creates affection or danger (depending on the image) between the onlooker and character. A *mid shot* is generally from the waist up and has less personal connection. *Long shots* show the full height of a person where they are often placed in a setting.
- **Colour:** can impact on emotion suggesting a mood, or creating a reaction to a person, place or object.

## Design

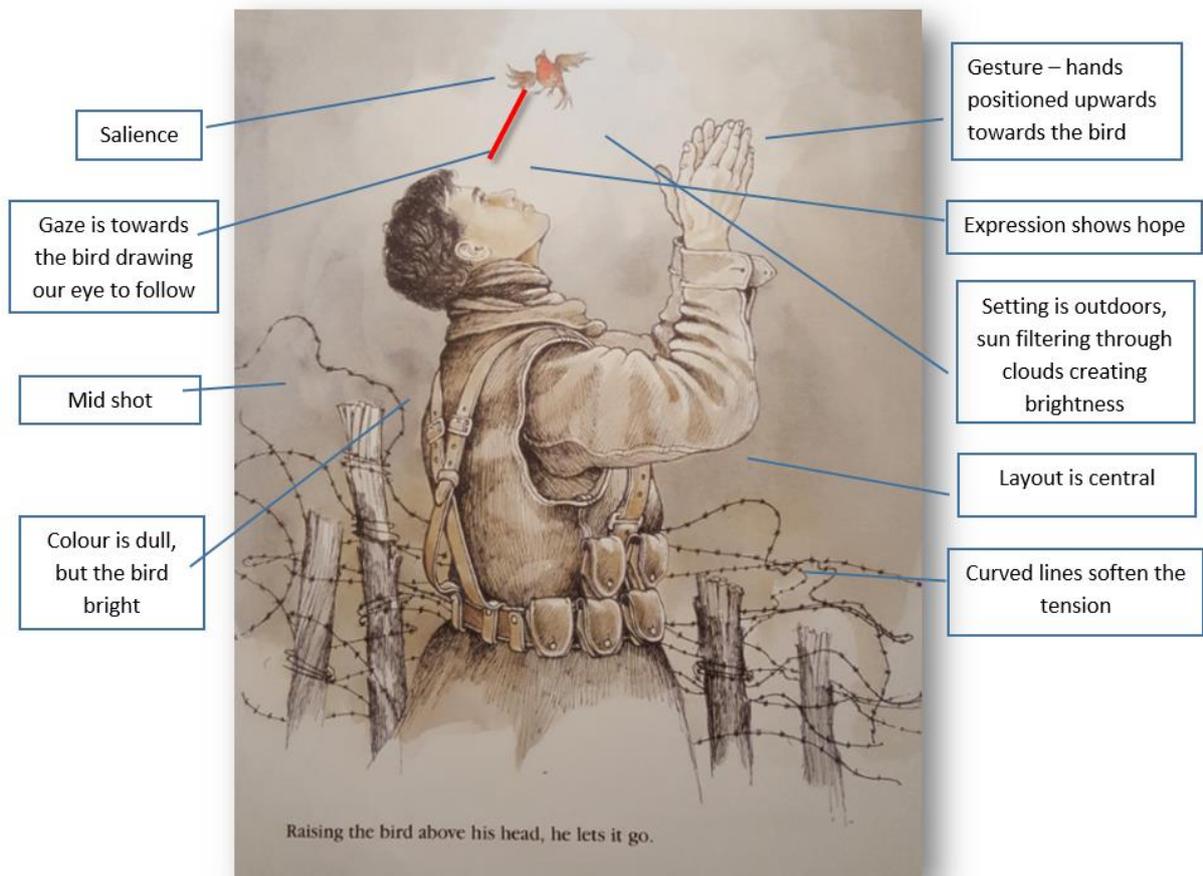
- **Salience:** the part of the image that grabs your attention first. Salience is created by different features such as the size, sharpness or focus of people or objects; colour; placement of figures or object in the foreground. When you look at an image what your eye is drawn to first is Salient - the most noticeable or main feature of the image.
- **Framing:** a frame creates a border that connects or separates participants (characters, objects).
- **Layout:** where are participants (characters, objects) placed? Top/bottom, left/right, centre/margin positions.



From *Baby Brains* by Simon James



From *Goanna* by Jenny Wagner



From *In Flanders Fields* by Norman Jorgensen

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