

Title:

Author, Illustrator:

Publisher:

Year:

In a picture book, the cover and first page of the book (text and art) often work together to create a strong start. Take all three into account as you're evaluating a published picture book or a picture book manuscript.

FIRST PAGE EVALUATION

(Apply this evaluation to first spread if the book opens with a 2-page spread)

Does the first page...

- Y N Start in the middle of a scene?
- Y N Introduce the MC (Main Character, Conflict, or Concept)?
- Y N Establish sense of place and time?
- Y N Establish or hint at (foreshadow) main story problem?
- Y N Give you information to set up the story arc?
- Y N Grab you and immediately pull you into the story?
- Y N Make you want to turn the page and keep reading?
- Y N Have a strong dose of kid-appeal that is appropriate for the target age?
- Y N Appeal to you as an adult reader?
- Y N Establish the genre?
- Y N Establish a strong voice or pattern for the rest of the book?
- Y N Sound great when read aloud?
- Y N Introduce a fresh twist on a universal theme?
- Y N Target the product line of a specific publisher?

Is the first page written in present or past tense?

From what point of view is the story told?

What is the universal theme of the book (family, friendship, animals, etc.)?

Identify the fresh or original twist on this theme:

(If there isn't one, how can this improve?)

Write the opening line:

Does the opening line have a strong hook? If so, what makes the hook?

List every verb in the opening line:

Are the verbs effective? Which weak verbs can be replaced with strong verbs?

Write the closing line:

Does the closing line refer back to the opening? If so, how?

Summary, Strengths, Weaknesses, etc.: