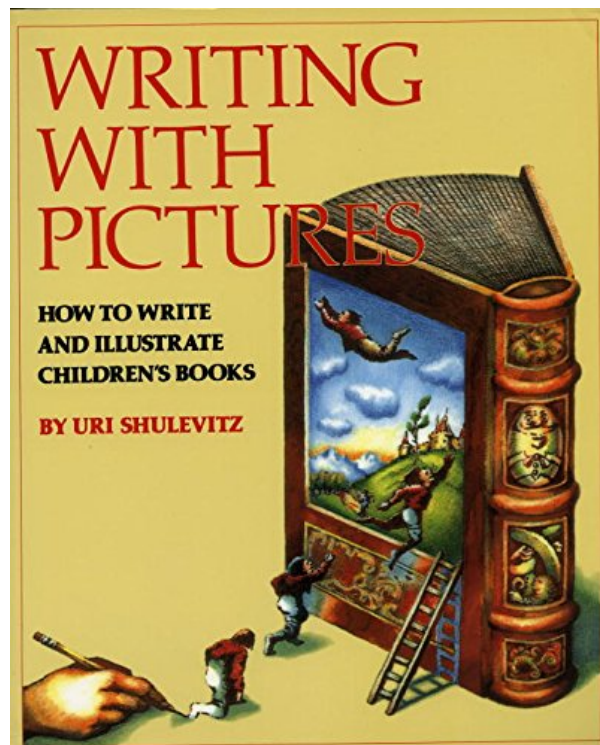
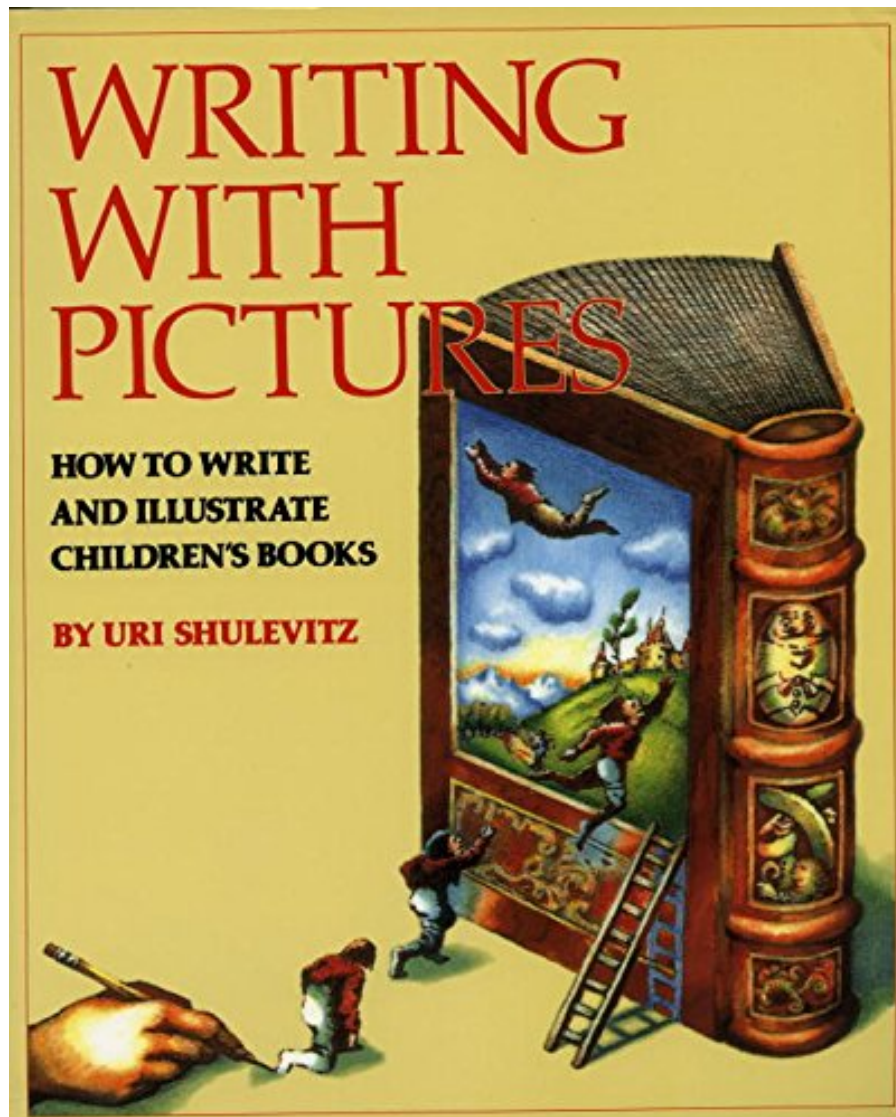


WRITING WITH PICTURES: HOW TO WRITE AND ILLUSTRATE CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY URI SHULEVITZ



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From Library Journal

Shulevitz, a well-established children's author and illustrator, uses discussion and more than 600 illustrations to convey principles he follows in his work. He covers story writing briefly, but gives most of his attention to the drawing of illustrations. Shulevitz makes his points slowly and completely and starts at a very basic level. He covers technical questions of how actually to proceed in developing ideas into books, as well as aesthetic and ethical issues. While Shulevitz's frequent use of his own work as a model of excellence and his unabashed presentation of his own point of view limit the range of styles and approaches presented, the book will still be useful as a starting point for aspiring children's authors. Kathryn W. Finkelstein, formerly with Georgia Inst. of Technology Lib., Atlanta

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From the Back Cover

To create a good picture book or story book, you must understand how the two differ in concept. A story book tells a story with words. Although the pictures amplify it, the story can be understood without them. The pictures have an auxiliary role, because the words themselves contain images. In contrast, a true picture book tells a story mainly or entirely with pictures.

About the Author

Uri Shulevitz has written and illustrated more than 30 children's books. In 1969 he received the Caldecott Medal for his illustrations in Arthur Ransome's retelling of *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship*. In 1980 *The Treasure*, which he wrote and illustrated, was selected as a Caldecott Honor Book. Other children's books by Uri Shulevitz include *One Monday Morning*, *The Magician*, *Rain Rain Rivers* (winner of a bronze medal at the 1970 Leipzig International Book Exhibition), and *Dawn* (given the 1975 Christopher Awards and chosen as a 1976 Honor Book by the International Board on books for Young People). Uri Shulevitz has taught the writing and illustrating of children's books at the New School for Social Research in New York City. He has also directed a summer workshop at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York.

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WRITING WITH PICTURES: HOW TO WRITE AND ILLUSTRATE CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY URI SHULEVITZ PDF

A step-by-step guide to creating children's books. The book covers aspects from the preliminary idea to publication, and describes how to tell a story visually, draw characters and develop settings.

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

STOP! GO NO FURTHER! YOU FOUND IT!

By Dave Millman

This is the book you have been looking for. I've purchased a number of other books about children's publishing, but this one has more wisdom and more real technique than any of them.

The title might make you think this book is about illustrating children's books. Yes, an illustrator can get a graduate degree from the material here. But the title doesn't really do the book justice, because Shulevitz covers both writing and illustration. He covers both topics together, showing how the text and the pictures move a story forward to a satisfactory conclusion. Quoting from the book (p.29):

"When the actor-stage relationship is clear, when the picture code is consistent, when the progression is appropriate to the action, the picture sequence will 'speak' to the reader. The more clearly the picture sequence speaks, the more enjoyment the reader will be able to get from it. And giving a feeling of satisfaction is essential in children's books."

This book has literally hundreds of example illustrations and text excerpts. Most are pencil and ink sketches, but don't be fooled: the author created most of them specifically to illustrate this book. They do a great job.

I'm done gushing. If you are interested in this topic, buy the book. You won't be disappointed.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Too dated

By soccer mom

After reading the reviews for this book I purchased a copy thinking that it looked promising. But I was disappointed with some of the content. Although there is some good information some of the material is very dated. The book was written before the digital era. Some of it is still relevant like chapter 6 storyboard and book dummy and chapter 12 picture space and composition. But other chapters are outdated like chapter 16 color prepreparation and the chapter on visual references. Overall I felt it was too dated to be of much use and wished I had purchased something more relevant to the type of children's books being written today.

85 of 86 people found the following review helpful.

A book every children's book illustrator should have--and useful for writers and others too

By Harold Underdown

This review is condensed from a longer review on my web site, [The Purple Crayon](#).

The author of *Writing with Pictures* is a Caldecott medalist, and he gives the reader a master's class in the theory and the practicalities of picture book illustration in particular and of illustration more generally.

CONTENTS: This is a substantial book, large format, 272 pages, with over 600 illustrations (mostly black and white, many of them small). Shulevitz breaks it down into four sections: *Telling the Story*, *Planning the Book*, *Creating the Pictures*, and *Preparing for Reproduction*. There is also an appendix with advice on finding a publisher, a short bibliography, and a useful index.

Telling the Story: In this section, Shulevitz opens with the difference between a picture book and a story book. He then goes on to explain his theory of "visual storytelling," using many visual examples. He also demonstrates how text and illustration work together in a picture book, and closes with a discussion of the characteristics of a picture book, such as "linear continuity" and rhythm and repetition.

Planning the Book: In this section, Shulevitz shows the steps an illustrator goes through to create a book:

starting with a story board; moving on to a dummy; working with text in a layout; playing with many possibilities of size, scale, shape; and dealing with the structure of a printed book. Step-by-step visual illustrations make this easy to follow.

Creating the Pictures: This section starts with theory: the purpose of illustration is to clarify or even illuminate the text, and thus the illustrator must at least make the pictures "readable." He then focuses on creating illustrations themselves. It covers such topics as drawing figures and objects, using visual references, composition, technique, and style, with copious examples.

Preparing for Reproduction: The book was originally published in 1985, and this is the only section that has become badly dated, as it focuses on the way to create pre-separated art, which used to be the predominant method used in children's books. Today, of course, almost all picture books are made by scanning original full-color art.

COMMENTS: It's not over-praising this book to say that there's no other book like it, and that it's an unmatched resource for anyone involved with children's book illustration. I've had a copy for several years, and I learn something every time I open it. Of course, I'm an editor, but the illustrators I know tell me the same.

If you want to understand the nitty-gritty of creating a picture book, from text to final illustrations and layout, there is no other book out there.

See all 69 customer reviews...

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