KEY THEME: In a Picture Book, the illustration does not merely reflect the idea or action on a single page but shares in moving a story forward and in engaging the reader with the narrative on both an intellectual and an emotional level. The pictures should convey and enhance the meaning behind the story.

Chapter Five: Picture Books

The Picture Book Defined
- What is the definition of a “picture book”?
- What are the differences between
  - A picture book
  - An illustrated book

The Art and Artists of Picture Books
- Look for ways illustrators are able to create these forms of meaning in picture books: foreshadowing, emotions, tensions, metaphor, climax, mood, character delineations, character development, accuracy and consistency with text, authenticity of setting.
- Consider the Elements of Design (Can you apply your understanding of these elements to books you are reading/enjoying?)
  - Line and Shape
  - Use of Color
  - Value
  - Space
  - Point-of-View/Perspective
- Notice how a change of perspective can alter an illustration.
- Consider the artist’s choice of media:
  - Woodcuts and similar techniques
  - Collage and construction
  - Paints and pen and ink
  - Crayon, chalk, charcoal, and pencil
- Consider the way a book can be affected by design choices concerning these features: size, shape, cloth cover, jacket, endpapers, title page, spacing of pictures and text, margins, type design, paper quality and color, binding.
- The Language of Books
  Be familiar with these language forms in picture books: exuberant use of language, cadenced language, unusual words, repetition, figurative language, rich dialogue.
Weekly Writing: (choose one of the following to essay your response in 1 full page single-spaced)

- Write a couple of annotated bibliographies. This time, in your annotations, choose picture books. Look closely at the picture books you’ve chosen to discover how the illustrations extend the story’s meaning beyond the words. In your annotations, discuss the importance of illustration to meaning. Note the effect of the artist’s choice of medium, style, and color. Include in your discussion content details present in the pictures that are not present in the text.

- Study the work of one Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator. In your writing, explain the work of this artist. What medium does this artist use? What terms would you use to describe the style? Can you discern an evolution in the artist’s style? Is this artist/illustrator also the writer? What effect do you think this has on the work?

- Pick one of your favorite children’s stories and design and illustrate one of the important “moments” in the story. Imagine that your illustration is one of a series of illustrations that convey the story. Consider using this illustration in your annotated bibliography.