

Meredith Costain Masterclass

(Notes by Kathryn Apel)

Creating Picture Books

- * more than just illustrated story
- * words & pics work together – author needs to leave out for illustrators.
- * sometimes the pics carry all or part of story with no text at all.

Successful picture books

- * resonate emotionally
- * have heart
- * tell important story reader can find meaning in
- * beg to be read over and over

Simple stories: * Board Books
Beginner Readers: * The Gruffalo * Where the Wild Things Are
Older Readers: * The Great Bear * Fox * Way Home

PBs are usually based on one very strong idea. Not enough room for subplots;
reflect a child's world
family & friends
animals – getting a pet / death/loss of pet/family member
games
colours/shapes/concepts
stages of development
sibling rivalry
monsters
overcoming something – shyness, fear, bullies, dark
the joy of living
being noisy

Old Pig, Harry & Hopper, Bully,

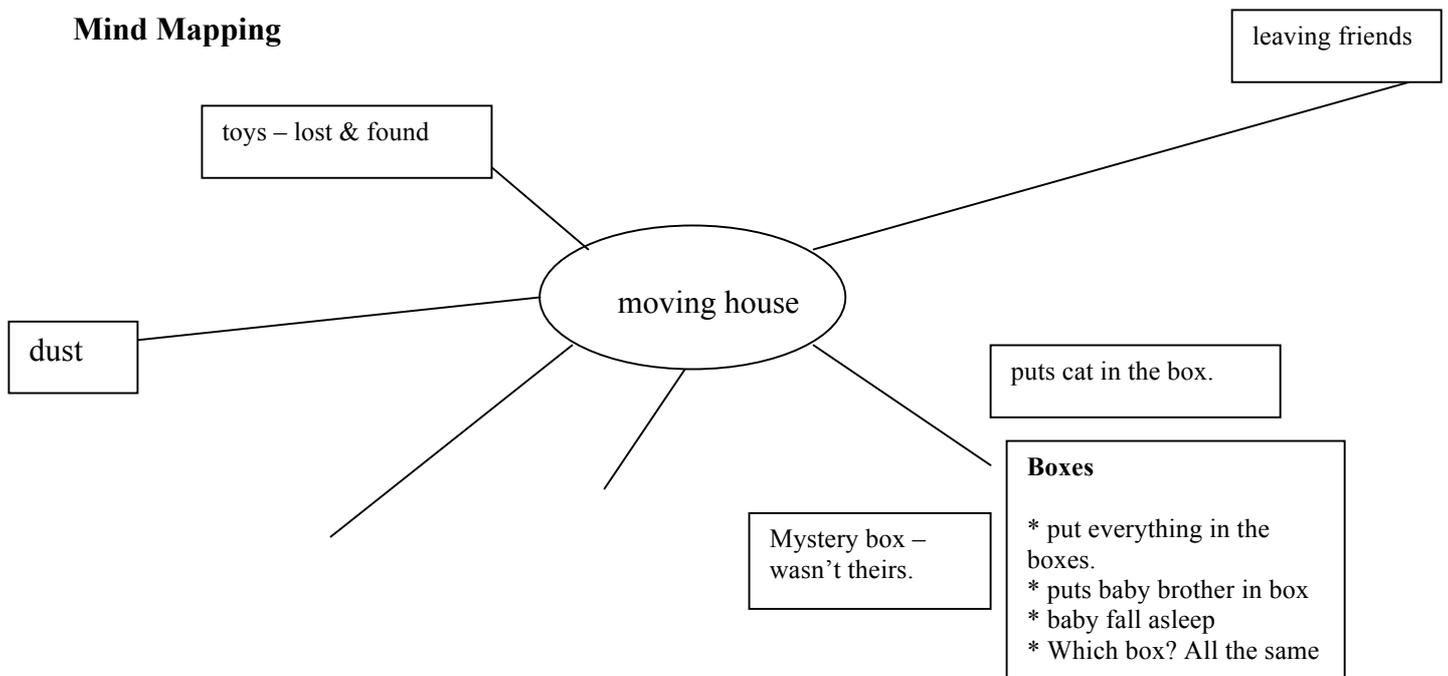
Babette Cole; 'Mummy Laid an Egg'

Getting Ideas

The best ideas pop into your head and annoy you until you write them down.

Remember to see it through the child's eyes. Draw on your experience, set it in today's setting – but set it from the child's perspective – not your reflection.

Mind Mapping



Characters in Picture Books:

- * children
- * family members
- * animals
- * machines

The danger with using animals is that it can be twee. A way of dealing with difficult situations like death – gives distance from these issues.

Structure: picture books follow traditional linear structure; beginning, middle, satisfying end – all generated by a problem!

Without a problem, you don't have a story – you have a series of events.

Story Plan

Character:

What does your character want?

Problem – what is stopping them from getting it?

3 ways they could solve the problem

How is the problem actually resolved?

How does the resolution affect your character?

General

* PB pages are in multiples of 8

* When you've done your fast draft, summarise it in 2 sentences – 1 is better. If you can't, it is too complicated for a PB. High * pitch