

Picture Books as Grammar Gateways: *Exploring the Grammar of the Australian Curriculum through Picture Books*

Language is born in context. Therefore, it makes sense that to understand language, it must be taught within a context and what better context than a picture book! Picture books are professionally published and polished creations. They demonstrate complex language features in a concise few pages.

In this practical and engaging workshop, participants will explore how picture books can be a source of inquiry into the grammar of the Australian Curriculum, allowing students to develop a critical and deep connection to language. Throughout this workshop, a range of high-quality picture books will be explored to demonstrate a range of Grammar Gateways, through which we can step with our students. Participants will dive into the gateway of multimodal possibilities, exploring the visual and language features that combine to make meaning. Following this, the workshop will explore picture books as gateways of context, noting how picture books provide context for learning, connecting them to the curriculum. Finally, gateways of creativity and complexity will be encountered as participants develop an awareness of picture books that meet the needs of multiple year levels. Throughout the workshop, participants will engage in activities that can be translated into the Primary and Middle Years classrooms, covering grammatical features including the clause, noun groups, Verb Processes and sentence types. Participants will leave this workshop with heads full of grammar and hearts full of literature.