

ILLUSTRATORS' CRITIQUE GROUP GUIDELINES

THE PURPOSE OF AN ILLUSTRATION CRITIQUE GROUP is to encourage each participant through comments and suggestions to better illustration, affirm what has been created, point out areas which need to be strengthened, removed, or clarified. Visiting, market news, and announcements should be limited to an agreed upon portion of time.

WHEN YOU ARE BEING CRITIQUED

- Introduce your illustration by saying “What it is” and “Who it is for”, BUT do not make excuses: “This is really rough...”
- Display work without digressions or side remarks.
- Explain the intention or goal of the work in response to critiques, but do not argue. You always have the option of setting aside any critiques which you feel do not apply.

WHEN CRITIQUING

- Be sensitive. **START EACH CRITIQUE WITH A POSITIVE STATEMENT.**
- Keep verbal critiques brief and clear.
- Direct comments toward the work, NOT the artist or his/her ability.
- Remember, all suggestions are suggestions. HOW they are offered is just as important as WHAT is offered.
- Do not make a suggestion more than twice, no matter how strongly you feel about it. The artist must take responsibility for changes—especially those they hear from several people.
- No need to say more than “I agree with _____ (other participant) about _____” when someone else has already pointed out a problem or a job well done.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Is the composition interesting and strong?
- Is the chosen medium the best for the artist and subject?
- How do the text and illustration combine?
- Is there a fluid movement and rhythm in shape and line?
- Does point of view vary to avoid monotony?
- Does layout contribute to the text?
- Do characters remain consistent in appearance throughout?
- Does the work illustrate the text and then contribute even more?
- Are the gutters free of important information?
- Does the work break down into the correct page specifications according to its form?
i.e. picture book = 24, 32, 40, etc.

We are here to support each other, bolster each other's confidence after rejection letters, and rejoice in each other's successes.

