

“[W]e should expect that new types of texts would afford different opportunities for reading in new ways” (Pantaleo & Sipe, 2008, p. 4).

What are the characteristics of postmodern picture books?

- 1. Non-traditional plot structure**
- 2. Using the pictures or text to position the reader to read the text in a particular way, for example, through a character's eyes or point-of-view.**
- 3. The reader's involvement with constructing the meaning of the text.**
- 4. [Intertextual](#) references, which requires the reader to make connections to other books or knowledge, in order to better understand the text.**
- 5. Varied design layout and a variety of styles of illustration.**

*(From: Anstey, M. (2002, March). "It's Not All Black and White": Postmodern Picture Books and New Literacies. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 45(6), 444-457)*

Sipe and McGuire (2008, p. 3) identified six characteristics of postmodern picture books:

- 1. blurring the distinctions between popular and “high” culture, the categories of traditional literary genres, and the boundaries among author, narrator, and reader;**
- 2. subversion of literary traditions and conventions and undermining the traditional distinction between the story and the outside “real” world;**
- 3. intertextuality (present in all texts) is made explicit and manifold, often taking the form of pastiche, a wry, layered blend of texts from many sources;**
- 4. multiplicity of meanings, so that there are multiple pathways through the narrative, a high degree of ambiguity, and nonresolution or open-ended endings;**
- 5. playfulness, in which readers are invited to treat the text as a semiotic playground;**
- 6. self-referentiality, which refuses to allow readers to have a vicarious lived-through experience, offering instead a metafictional stance by drawing attention to the text as a text rather than as a secondary world.**

Postmodern Book Project

Due April 2018

20 points

Consider some of the books we have looked at this semester, from works by Melanie Watt to those by David Macaulay to those by Emily Gravett. Children's book authors are doing some exciting things with books! They are reshaping the boundaries of texts in ways that shift the ways we interact with words and pictures. Essentially, these authors are redefining what it means to read. Today's technologies enhance our ability to create texts that we perhaps never before imagined.

Given what you understand about postmodern picture books---their form and function--you are to create your own postmodern text using one or more of the new technologies available to you in one of the Maker Spaces on campus. You will be presenting your final project at a book signing in late-April. Your final texts may be available for view in the Kenan Science Library, at Wilson Library and in the Art Library.

You will be completing this project in small collaborative groups of no more than four students. The project will entail all elements from planning and design to construction. Each student must play a critical and central role in the project development and implementation, though those roles may differ. While you will have some planning time in class, you will need to find time to work on this project outside of class.

In preparation for this project, all students must complete an orientation session at the Maker Space. These are available at various times across the month (see <https://beam.unc.edu/events.php>). The training is approximately 1 hour. You must complete this training by February 22nd. You will need some additional training to then use various tools in the Makerspace. These trainings are offered at various times across the semester. The choice of specialized training you attend will be determined by your project design. These second round of trainings must be completed by March 29th. To compensate for this additional training time, we will NOT have regular class sessions on March 6th or April 17th.

Project Benchmarks and Dates:

- 1) Brainstorm initial project ideas: Late *February-early March*
- 2) Determining final project idea: March 22nd
- 3) Drafting Story (storyboarding) and Design Ideas: *March, early April*
 - What is the story?
 - Who is the audience?
 - What are its postmodern elements?
 - How will readers engage with your book?

- Are there ways your book acts as a counter-narrative and/or challenges a traditional trope/perception/social construction?

4) Finalize Design Plan and Create 2D Prototype: *April 12th*

5) Design Work and Development of Final Product: all of *April*

6) Complete author statements and “advertising” material: April 19th

- Who are you, as authors?
- Why and for whom did you write this particular book? (DP)
- In what ways is your project influenced by other texts or objects? (DP)
- How does this book "afford different opportunities for reading in new ways" (Pantaleo & Sipe, 2008, p. 4)?
- What ideas did you try out before settling on this one? Why did you settle on this one in particular? (DP)

7) Book Presentations and Book Signing: May 4th

8) Final Process Reflection: April, Week Four

- What constraints did you encounter in the process and how did you address these? (DP)
- What risks did you—and your group—take in and through this project? (DP)
- How would you describe the collaborative process? How did the group work together—or not-- to achieve your desired outcome? (ET)
- What specifically did you contribute to the project?
- What tools did you use in the final project and why did you choose these in particular? In what way were these the best choice for your particular design? (AM)
- What did you and your group have to tweak/change along the way to the final product? (AM)
- What did you learn from this experience about literacy? About making? About teaching and learning? (TK)

