

# QSA

## ‘Shared Vision Conference’

New Australian Curriculum: English literature Years 4-7.

## Narelle Oliver presentation April 28, 2010

### **‘Picture books’ are listed as one of the multimodal genres of literature suitable for study in the new English curriculum for Years 4 -7.**

So... why study picture books?

Aren't they too simple for these year levels?

In terms of studying literature in all its forms, what can be gained from studying picture books?

Narelle Oliver has been planning and creating the visual and written narratives of her highly successful picture books for over twenty years. In this session, she reveals how the authors and illustrators of picture books make a myriad of choices in terms of visual cues and the words they use in order to convey a story in all its richness and complexity – motives and power relationships between characters, emotions, sense of place, broader social and historical issues, points of view.

Picture books rely on a special interaction between visual and written texts and this is valuable to study in its own right.

But there are more reasons to choose picture books for close scrutiny with your year 4-7 students...

The visual devices used in picture book illustrations share many common attributes with film.

Likewise, because every word in a picture book counts, the written text of a picture book often offers a concentrated clear and very accessible sample of linguistic devices which also exist, but are often more difficult to locate, in longer written works.

Thus, the study of visual and linguistic devices used in picture books offers a perfect pathway to the study of other literature such as film and chapter books/novels.