

Polacco, P. (2011). *Bun bun button*. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Summary: In *Bun Bun Button*, Patricia Polacco shares a tale of a little girl, Paige, and her relationship with her Gramma and a new stuffed toy. Paige and her Gramma enjoy a lot of activities together. Their favorite activity is cuddling with all of the animals on Gramma's Old Blue Chair. One night when they were cuddling, Paige noticed that everyone on the Old Blue Chair had a stuffed toy but her. She quickly asked her Gramma to make her a stuffed toy too! That night, Gramma stayed up late sewing a stuffed rabbit for Paige. When Paige received the rabbit the next day, she named it Bun Bun Button. Paige and Bun Bun were never apart. One day Paige had a red balloon. Even though her Gramma warned her she took Bun Bun outside tied her to the red balloon and tied the balloon to her wrist. The balloon became loosened from Paige's wrist while she was playing and Bun Bun floated off. She floated into space and through the air until finally she was disconnected from the balloon and floated down to Earth. As if by luck, she was placed by a squirrel at Gramma's feet and ultimately reunited to Paige. All of the animals, Paige Gramma and Bun Bun cuddled together in the Old Blue Chair once again.

Craft Table for *Bun Bun Button* by: Patricia Polacco

Craft Move	Page Number(s)	Why the Author Might Be Doing This... (Explaining the Craft Move)
Em Dashes	Pgs. 14,16	<p>Writers use em dashes to remind their reader to pause as they read a line of text. Polacco uses em dashes at several points in her text to remind you (the reader) to stop when you see the em dash, or long dash symbol. She often adds these em dashes in points of the dialogue or text that are important to the story.</p> <p>For example, on page 14 Paige says to her Gramma, "Look — Bun Bun Button wants to fly, too!" Polacco may have added the em dash to show that Paige paused in her speaking. The pause would have naturally given her Gramma a moment to be able to turn her attention to Paige and Bun Bun. I think it was important that Gramma turned to see Paige string Bun Bun to the balloon because she was able to warn Paige not to take Bun Bun outside on a loose string. Polacco effectively used the em dash to slow the conversation and show you (the reader) that Gramma saw Paige</p>

		<p>was carrying Bun Bun attached to the balloon and gave her the important warning about going outside with Bun Bun on the balloon.</p> <p>Additionally, on page 16 Polacco utilizes another em dash. She writes, "Up, up, up the balloon went — and Bun Bun went with it." Polacco may have chose to use an em dash at this important changing point in the story to cause you (the reader) to pause and pay attention to the balloon and Bun Bun flying away.</p> <p>You can choose to use em dashes just like Polacco did. They are used in place of other punctuation and remind readers to pause as they read. Remember to think about important events and the specific sentences that explain the event. Then add an em dash where your reader would naturally pause to slow down an important line of text.</p>
Movement of Time and Place	Pg. 6-8, 25-27	<p>Writers use movement of time and place to move a story along in just a few sentences. It is a craft move that excellent writers like Polacco use to change the setting or scene and still help the story to move along. In <i>Bun Bun Button</i>, Polacco uses specific movement words to show her that time and place is changing.</p> <p>For example, on pages six through eight, Polacco creates a quick change from morning into evening and living room to bedroom. Polacco writes, "She [Gramma] dug deep into her calico chest and pulled out some cloth. That night, she cut and pinned and stitched, working long after Paige was in bed. The next morning there right next to her pillow was the most beautiful stuffed Button she had ever seen." In this scene, Polacco uses movement of time and place to move the text from the point where, on the Old Blue Chair, Paige asks her Gramma to make a stuffed toy to hold, to the Gramma making the stuffed toy, to Paige discovering the toy on her pillow the next morning. She uses the words and phrases, "that night," "working long after," and "the next morning," to show how much time has passed. She also changed the place from the room with the Old Blue Chair and calico chest to Paige's bedroom. Polacco correctly uses movement of time and place in just a few lines of text to move the story along taking you (the reader) from Paige's request to</p>

		<p>her receiving Bun Bun Button.</p> <p>Polacco again uses movement of time and place on pages 25 through 27 as she describes Bun Bun's fall from the sky finally to the ground. She writes, "Bun Bun started to tumble and fall, end over end. The wind whistled through her little ears until Bun Bun landed on the back of a seagull and tumbled toward the ground, down and down ...and down. Finally she came to rest on the lowest limb of a willow tree. There, a squirrel picked Bun Bun up and bounded out of the tree, scampered over the privet hedge, ran under the lilac bush and dropped Bun Bun right at Gramma Darling's feet." Even though a lot of time does not pass during this scene, Polacco effectively uses movement of time and place to share the long fall that Bun Bun took. The fall, written by Polacco, moved Bun Bun from floating through the sky, to flying with the geese, and finally landing on the ground only to be picked up and moved by a squirrel moved across several yards, and back to the foot of Grandma Darling. She used the words "started," "toward," "finally," "then," "out," "over," and "under," to show that Bun Bun was moving through time and place. Instead of saying, "Bun Bun fell from the sky to Gramma Darling's feet," Polacco used specific descriptors and movement of time and place to you (the reader) to understand the many steps that it took for Bun Bun Button to make it home.</p> <p>Polacco understands that a writer only has a limited amount of sentences that she can use to create movement of time and place in a story. She uses this movement to help move the story along. Whenever you want to use movement of time and place, be sure to use words and phrases like Polacco used to move show your readers that your characters have moved through time and place.</p>
Points of Ellipses	Pg. 25, 31	Excellent writers, such as Polacco, use points of ellipses, or three dots in a row, to build anticipation for their reader. Points of ellipses cause a reader to pause. This pause may help to build interest for the reader about what might happen in the very next line. In Bun Bun Button, Polacco uses ellipses during important scenes to keep the reader interested about what may happen next.

		<p>On page 25, Polacco uses ellipses to create a sense of excitement and anxiousness. This causes you (the reader) to predict where Bun Bun Button might fall. She states, "The wind whistled through her little ears until Bun Bun landed on the back of a seagull and tumbled toward the ground, down and down..." These points of ellipses leaves the reader wondering if Bun Bun Button will fall neatly back into Paige's backyard or somewhere unknown, never to be reunited with the Darlings. It is likely that Polacco knows that this is a very exciting point in the story. She may have chosen to utilize ellipses to create a sense of anxiousness in her reader. The answer to the reader's question, "What happens to Bun Bun?" is not answered until after the points of ellipses.</p> <p>On page 31, Polacco uses points of ellipses to make the reader anxious wondering whether Paige and Bun Bun Button will finally be reunited. She writes, "Paige came to Gramma's still very sad. She didn't even want her sand cookies and milk. She went straight to her room, and there she saw... 'Bun Bun, Bun Bun you've come back to me!' She scooped Bun Bun up in her arms." Polacco describes how down Paige feels the day after Bun Bun Button floated off into the sky. At this point in the story Polacco may have chosen to use points of ellipses to signal you(the reader), that an important event is about to happen. That event was the reunion of Bun Bun and Paige. The points of ellipses make you (the reader) anxious about their reunion.</p> <p>When you want to break up an event to keep your reader wondering what may happen next, you may choose to use ellipses to make them (the reader) feel interested about what's coming next just like Polacco did.</p>
Setting Details	3, 16	<p>Authors use descriptive setting details to help you (the reader) paint a picture of where the story is taking place. Polacco's descriptions of her setting are vivid. This craft move helps the reader to use their five senses and visualize important settings as they read.</p> <p>On page three, Polacco describes in detail the parts of Gramma's house. This setting is an important part of the story. This may be why Polacco chose to add so much</p>

		<p>detail about the house. She writes, “Paige Elizabeth Darling adored her grandma. When Paige visited — which was often — Gramma let Paige help bake soft sand cookies, make the beds and feed the kitties and the dogs. And when Paige was done, she and Gramma would climb into the Old Blue Chair which they loved and cuddle and read.” Polacco lists many different elements of Paige’s grandma’s house. She lets the reader know that the house is full of the smells of cookies, sounds of animals, and touch of a comfy and cozy Old Blue Chair. This detailed description helps the reader to paint a clear picture in their mind of, the important setting, Gramma’s home.</p> <p>On page 16, Polacco describes the surroundings in Gramma’s garden as Bun Bun Button flies high into the air. She writes, “Bun Bun and Paige danced around the backyard together. They ran around the birdbath, bounced under the Sleeping Willow, skipped around the lilac bush. [...] But then she jumped the privet hedge. [...] Up up up the balloon went [...] It floated past the birdbath, around the fountain, and, finally, up past the Sleeping Willow tree.” This important point in the story line is improved by Polacco’s details about the setting. The vivid setting helps you (the reader) to paint a picture in your mind of exactly how the garden is looks during this important scence.</p> <p>The Darling Family’s Old Blue Chair and the garden where Paige lost Bun Bun are very important to the story. Polacco may have chosen to use vivid setting details to show you (the reader) how important the specific setting was to that point in the story. She may have wanted you to paint a picture in your brain of exactly what that important setting looked like. Adding setting details, is one way to elaborate your writing and help your reader to create a picture in their mind about what a setting looks like. When you want to show that a setting will have major importance in a story, you may want to add vivid setting details just like Polacco did.</p>
Repetition	4,9, 4 and 19	<p>Authors, like Patricia Polacco, use repetition to make you (the reader) pay attention to key words or phrases in a story. Polacco may have used repetition in the story <i>Bun Bun Button</i> to make you (the reader) notice a character’s feelings.</p>

	and 33	<p>Polacco used repetition on page four to share the animal's feelings about the chair. She states, "Everybody at Gramma's house loved that chair. Her five kittens did. The dogs did. Her pet squirrel did. Even Gramma's goldfish did." The repetition of the word "did" makes you (the reader) notice that they all (did) love that chair. It makes you (the reader) notice how strong the animals' feelings were for the Old Blue Chair.</p> <p>Polacco also utilized repetition on page nine to how Paige is feeling the day that she received her new stuffed animal, Bun Bun Button. Polacco writes, "Paige, nestled Bun Bun into her cheek, put her favorite finger into the stuffed bunny's ear pocket and cuddled and cuddled." Polacco may have chosen to repeat the word cuddled to show you (the reader) that Paige choose to cuddle her new stuffed toy for a long period of time <i>because she loves it so much</i>.</p> <p>Finally, on pages four, nineteen, and thirty-three Polacco uses repetition of a phrase to show how strongly Gramma feels about the Darling family's luck. On page 4 Gramma says, "We're Darlings, and we Darlings have always been lucky." On page nineteen, Paige was feeling worried that she would never seen Bun Bun Button again. Gramma comforted Paige by saying, "We Darlings are lucky, after all." On page thirty-three Paige questions the phrase Gramma has stated throughout the book. Paige says, "Oh Gramma, we Darlings are lucky, aren't we[?]" Polacco may have repeated the phrase about the Darling family to show that Gramma felt strongly that the Darlings were a lucky family who always found solutions to their problems.</p> <p>You may choose to use repetition of a word or phrase, just like Polacco, to show how strong feelings in your characters when you are writing a narrative piece.</p>
Proper Nouns	3, 9	<p>Polacco often uses proper nouns in her writing. You (the reader) know that a word is a proper noun because it is a noun written with capital letters. You also know that proper nouns are nouns that are capitalized because they specific places, names, or objects. Polacco may have chosen to use proper nouns to give names to objects that are important in her story. In the story <i>Bun Bun Button</i>, Polacco names two</p>

		<p>ordinary objects using proper nouns. This shows you (the reader) the importance of these ordinary objects.</p> <p>On page 3, Polacco introduces the Old Blue Chair for the first time. She writes, "And when Paige was done, she and Gramma would climb into the Old Blue Chair which they loved and cuddle and read." Polacco could have easily chosen to use the ordinary name "chair" to describe the object. However, by using the specific proper noun Old Blue Chair, you (the reader) know that this isn't just an ordinary chair. It is a place that is important to the Darling family. It is where they gather with their animals and toys.</p> <p>On page 9, Paige chooses a name for her new stuffed toy. She says, "I'm going to call her Bun Bun Button!" Polacco could have written, "Paige picked up her new stuffed toy." Polacco may have chosen to give a specific name to the new stuffed toy to show how important that Bun Bun Button was to Paige and to the rest the story.</p> <p>When you have an object in your story that is important, you may choose to name it using a proper noun to show your reader how important that object is to the story. This is just what Polacco did when she chose to give the names "Old Blue Chair" and "Bun Bun Button" to a chair and stuffed toy.</p>
Vivid Action Verbs	6,16,27	<p>Vivid action verbs help a reader get a clear picture in their mind of the specific actions a character takes in a story. Polacco uses vivid action verbs throughout <i>Bun Bun Button</i>. She may have chosen to use these vivid action verbs to help her reader create a picture in their mind of exactly what is happening to the characters at certain points of the story.</p> <p>On page 6, Polacco writes the steps that Gramma took after Paige asked her to make her a new stuffed toy. She writes, "She dug deep into her calico chest and pulled out some cloth. That night, she cut and pinned, and stitched working long after Paige was in bed." These sentences are full of vivid verbs. They are "dug," "pulled," "cut," "pinned," and "stitched." These vivid verbs help you (the reader) to</p>

		<p>create a picture in your mind of the exact steps that Gramma took to create the stuffed toy for Paige.</p> <p>On page 16, Polacco uses vivid action verbs to describe the exact steps which Paige takes before she loses Bun Bun Button. She writes, "Bun Bun and Paige danced around the backyard together. They ran around the birdbath, bounced under the Sleeping Willow, skipped around the lilac bush. [...] But then she jumped the privet hedge." Polacco may have used the vivid action verbs, "danced," "ran," "bounced," "skipped," and "jumped," to help her reader develop a clear picture in their mind how Paige traveled around the yard with Bun Bun Button. These words also help the reader understand how Paige lost Bun Bun.</p> <p>Vivid action verbs help your reader to see the exact steps or actions that characters take in your story. Polacco often uses vivid verbs in her writing. You too can use vivid verbs in your writing to help your reader develop a clear picture in their mind of steps or actions a character takes in a story. You can write like Patricia Polacco too!</p>
Satisfying Ending	31-33	<p>Authors write satisfying endings to finish their story. These satisfying endings help to make sure that all characters' stories are complete. Polacco uses satisfying endings to ensure to her readers that all of her characters' problems, which happened earlier in her stories, are solved.</p> <p>In <i>Bun Bun Button</i>, Polacco starts writing the satisfying ending on page 31, she writes, "Bun Bun, you've come back to me!" She scooped Bun Bun up in her arms." On page 33, Polacco continues her ending. She says, "That night Gramma, Bun Bun, Paige, the cats, the dogs, and the squirrel climbed into the Old Blue Chair together. 'Oh Gramma, we Darlings are lucky, aren't we,' Paige sighed. 'Maybe it's more than luck that brought her back to us, pet. Maybe it was love.' And they all sighed and sipped mint tea and ate soft sand cookies and cuddled deep into the Old Blue Chair together." When writing the satisfying ending Polacco made sure that Bun Bun and Paige were reunited. This was the main problem in the story that needed to be solved. However, Polacco knew that for an ending to be satisfying, all characters</p>

		<p>needed their stories to be complete. This is why she made sure to add that Gramma, Paige, and all of the animals climbed into the Old Blue Chair together and enjoyed some treats. This ending leaves the reader knowing that each and every character in <i>Bun Bun Button</i> was happy again. That their story was complete.</p> <p>Most excellent narrative writers, like Polacco, write to give you (the reader) a satisfying ending. A satisfying ending is written to let your reader know that the problems in the story are solved. In addition, all of the characters are left satisfied and complete. When you add a satisfying ending, you are writing just like Patricia Polacco.</p>
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