

SCRIPT –

Sequence --

Have I arranged my points in the most effective order? Sometimes the pieces are all there, but they're not in the best sequence.

**Mary had a little lamb,
It fleece was white as snow,
And the lamb was sure to go
Everywhere that Mary went.**

Content –

Have I told my reader everything he needs to know? We know the message we're trying to tell but our reader may not. It's our job to provide the right details as well as the "big picture" of what we're trying to say.

**Mary had a lamb
With nice fleece
That followed her**

Rhythm –

Have I chosen words, and combination of words, that flow naturally when they are read aloud? Whether we are writing verse, free verse, or prose there should be a rhythm to the way the lines flow. The words should fit like pieces of a puzzle. Try to use an inappropriate piece and we spoil the effect.

**Mary had a small lamb,
Its fleece was as white as snow,
And wherever Mary went
The lamb was always sure to go.**

Interest –

Have I written in such a way that my reader will care? What can I do to make this more fun, interesting, informative, sad, playful, surprising, or fresh?

**There was this girl
And she had a lamb.
It was her pet.
It followed her around.**

Pet words and clichés –

Beware of over-used, worn-out, tired, run-of-the-mill, everybody-uses-them, dull words and expressions! Out with them! Find something fresher!

**Mary was so cool!
She had this amazing lamb!
Like he followed her around!
Is that amazing or what?**

Title –

Sometimes the title tells part of the story or gives a good hint about the subject matter. Have I chosen my title with the reader in mind?

**The Shepherd's Daughter
The Neurotic Lamb**

-- David L. Harrison with Bernice E. Cullinan, 1999. *Easy Poetry Lessons that Dazzle and Delight*. Scholastic Professional Books.