

Ending Lines Bibliography

1. *Comet's Nine Lives* by Jan Brett (Putnam, 1996)

[Like all cats, Comet was born with nine lives. He spends his days wandering around Nantucket Island, never staying more than a few days in the same place. But after he "loses" eight of his lives in various crazy adventures, and nearly loses the ninth in a hurricane, something changes.]

Last line: *And as the fall days turned into winter, Comet knew exactly where he wanted to live for the rest of his life.*

Techniques: Shows the passing of time: Comet now knows what he wants.

2. *Over Back* by Beverly Major (HarperCollins, 1993)

[A young girl describes her journeys to the special place she calls Over Back, a place of pools and trees, over across the fields back behind the barn. Here her curiosity and imagination have free rein, uninhibited by the schedules and supervision of the adult world.]

Last line: *You look toward Over Back and there it is, waiting for tomorrow.*

Technique: Leaves reader thinking about what may happen next.

3. *Show Dog* by Meghan McCarthy (Viking, 2004)

[The Hubbles have a friendly dog named Ed. Their neighbor Mr. Pitt has a perfect poodle named Princess. So who will win a prize in the dog show? Win or lose, Ed and the Hubbles know how to have fun!]

Last line: *Princess and Ed and the Hubbles now live happily ever after. Mr. Pitt does NOT live happily ever after, but that's another story.*

Techniques: Conclusion; leaves room for another story; plays with conventions of fairytale endings.

4. *When Lightning Comes in a Jar* by Patricia Polacco (Philomel, 2002)

[Every year Trisha enjoys a get together with her aunts, uncles, and cousins. The family rituals are usually the same, except this year Gramma has promised something new. She's going to teach them how to catch lightning in a jar. This becomes one of the most remembered rituals that Trisha will proudly share with generations to come.]

Last line: *She also knew that someday they would tell their children about all of us, and of the magic nights when we caught lightning in a jar.*

Techniques: Conclusion is reached; reflecting on events; the story goes on with future generations

5. *Black Cowboy Wild Horses: A True Story* by Julius Lester (Dial Books, 1998)

[In this true story, Bob Lemmons, a former slave who was legendary for his tracking ability, tracks a herd of wild horses for days with his own horse, Warrior, and ultimately brings the herd back to his ranch.]

Last line: *Maybe someday they would ride with the mustangs, ride to that forever place where land and sky kissed, and then ride on. Maybe someday.*

Techniques: Reflects on main themes of the story (freedom vs. captivity, and the vastness of the open plains); leaves the reader thinking about the future of the protagonist.

6. *The Toy Brother* by William Steig (HarperCollins, 1996)

[Yorick and Charles are sons of a medieval alchemist. Yorick, the elder, disregards his father's warnings and mixes a potion

in the laboratory that reduces him to the size of a small sausage. So now the brothers must deal with all sorts of issues of role reversal and family relations.]

Last line: *The two brothers sincerely appreciated each other now. Except when they were having a fight.*

Techniques: Resolution, but plays with reader's expectations for a "happily ever after" ending.