

Books without words

A wordless book is a book that tells a story purely through the illustrations. Wordless picture books are valuable tools for literacy development as they engage children, regardless of reading level, in prediction, critical thinking, meaning making and storytelling. Guiding your child's interaction with a wordless book can also develop a richer vocabulary and greater understanding of story structure.

How to read a wordless picture book with your child:

At first it might feel a little strange to sit down to "read" a wordless book with your child so here are some tips to get you started:

1. Begin by looking at the cover. What can you see? What clues to the story does the cover illustration show?
2. Read the title. Does the title give you any ideas for what the story might be about?
3. Take a picture walk. Look through the pages of the book with the sole purpose of enjoying the pictures. Talk about anything that captures your attention.
4. "Read" the story. You might go first, inviting your child to add to your story as they see fit. Don't be afraid to tell your story with dramatic flair. Add sound effects and interesting voices that suit the characters of your tale.
5. Encourage your child to take a turn telling their own version of the story.
6. Ask questions about the book — which is your favourite illustration? Do you have a favourite part of the story or a favourite character? Can you tell about a time you have felt like the main character or found yourself in a similar situation?
7. Make predictions about the story based on the cover and title.