

Tips for sharing Wordless books

Courtesy of Readingrockets.org



Below are a few tips for sharing wordless picture books with a child:

- There are no "right" or "wrong" ways to read wordless books. One of the benefits of using wordless books is how children can discover their own story (or stories!) from the same pictures.
- Look at the cover, talk about the book's title. Based just on these things make a few predictions about what the story might be about.
- Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which often show lots of detail. Look carefully at the expressions on the characters' faces, where is the story set? Why do you think that? Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Go back through the book and get ready for some wonderful storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Use expression and give the characters different voices add sound effects and use unusual words in your story.
- Encourage your child to "read" you the book with their own story. Focus on the words your child uses when he tells the story. Help your child expand and develop their sentences by encouraging them to add more details and information. One way to encourage more details is by asking "W" questions: Who? Where? When? Why?
- Finish sharing your wordless book by asking...what was your favourite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension — and an increased awareness of how stories are "built," as the storyteller often uses a beginning, middle, end format. For a book with few words, you will be surprised at all the talking you will do, and all the fun you will have!

