

What are Wordless Picture Books?



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Some books may contain words sprinkled here or there or even a brief introduction page with text but the storyline is driven by the illustrations. Oral discussion is required to predict what the story is about.

How do I use them?

Wordless picture books are the most versatile genre because you can use one book to develop many different oral language and literacy goals with any age group.

Who would use a picture book without words?

Wordless picture books are ideal to use if you are an educator, speech and language therapist, tutor and anyone who enjoys reading with pupils.

Why would I use a wordless picture book?

A popular time to use wordless picture books is during a writing narrative unit. Oral language is key to being a good storyteller - use the structure of a wordless picture book to inspire creativity.

What are Wordless Picture Books?

Why are wordless picture books useful?

They allow for differentiation, as questioning skills can be changed to suit the age and ability of the pupil. They prompt the pupil to be creative and think about story content.

Develop Social and Emotional Skills

People look for clues to understand the world around them all the time. Using a wordless picture book encourages curiosity and connection to themselves and others. Learning to read facial expressions and body language is important for social emotional development.

Make Predictions and Inferences

A prediction is making a guess about what will happen next. Making an inference is taking information and reading between the lines. Pupils need to learn to answer questions like “Why do you think ...” or “How come they...”. This information is hidden in the story and requires higher level thinking skills.

Expand Oral Language

Encourage pupils to become good storytellers by using interesting and descriptive vocabulary. This can be differentiated to suit each pupils ability and age group.

Encourage and Instruct Writers

Wordless picture books provide a structured story that allows the writer to be original, creative and expand their imagination. The pupil can explain what the story is about and then write it in their own words.