



Dear Parent/Carers

This week your child has brought home a wordless book to read. There are lots of benefits to reading wordless books! Literacy is not simply about decoding words, but it also involves understanding subtext and the ability to make inferences, so learning how to "read" stories beyond literal text is very important. Wordless books *have* to tell the story without text, so they are the perfect tool for enhancing reading comprehension.

Here are a couple of ways you may wish to "read" wordless books:

#### ASK QUESTIONS:

Asking questions teaches your children that narrative clues lay outside of text.

When answering your questions, children start to understand story elements like plot, character, conflict, theme and even symbolism. It lays a terrific foundation for down the road, when they are learning to write and create their own stories in school (or at home).

General questions are a good way to get started. There's nothing wrong with simplicity!

- What do you see in the picture?
- What is happening?
- Who is here?

When opening a book for the first time, ask your child questions about the setting.

- Where does this story take place?
- What is the weather, season, day?
- Is there anything unusual or familiar about the setting?
- What sorts of things do people do in a place like this?

Spend time discussing the emotions of the story's characters. (You may like to spend some time asking about the characters and their motivations as these type of questions help children understand the role of characters in moving the plot forward.)

- What do you think he/she/it wants?
- Why do you think he/she/it wants it?
- What is the character thinking?
- What is the character feeling? Are they happy? Sad? Angry?

Be sure to ask anticipatory questions! Anticipatory questions get children eager to find out what happens next and keep "reading."

- What will happen next?
- What do you think should happen?
- What is a character going to do next?
- What choices could a character make?

#### ENCOURAGE CHILD-LED NARRATION:

Get your child to tell you the story themselves! Not only will this take the pressure off you, child-led narration exercises their imagination and oral skills. It even encourages them to use new vocabulary. Your child may be a little reluctant at first but give it time. They'll come around and you may be surprised at the things they invents! One of our favourite parts of child-led narration, is that each time a child "reads" a wordless book the story is a little bit different.