Activities for Wordless Picture Books with Your Kids
from Imagination Soup

Activity Ideas to Learn Beginning, Middle, and End

Even young children looking through a wordless book are learning that in a story, there is an order of events. Talk to them about which parts are beginning, middle, and end.

PREDICT: When you get to the middle, see if you can predict the ending.

SKIP A SECTION: Skip the middle pages in the book. Ask your child what they thought about a story with no middle part. Skip the end. Have your child invent his own ending.

Recommended Books:

- **NOPE! A Tale of First Flight** by Drew Sheneman
- **Flashlight** by Lizi Boyd
- **Quest** by Aaron Becker
- **Pancakes for Breakfast** by Tomie de Paola

Activities to Practice Sequencing

RETEL: As kids develop an understanding about beginning, middle, and ending, you can get more complex as you talk about the order (sequence) of events in the story. After reading, retell the story in your own words in the order that it happened.

Recommended Books:

- **Aquarium** by Cynthia Alonso
- **Professional Crocodile** by Giovanna Zoboli & Mariachiara di Giorgio
- **No Dogs Allowed!** by Linda Ashman and Kristin Sorra
- **The Snowman** by Raymond Briggs

Activities to Develop Emotional Intelligence

Children feel emotions. It's up to us to help them notice and name those emotions. That develops emotional intelligence. Download a [printable showing faces and emotions](#) to help you with this.

EMOTION FACES: As you read these books, refer to your emotion faces. On a sticky note, draw the emotion face the character is feeling on each page -- or every few pages -- and stick it...
on the page. Talk about how you know this. What does the character's face look like? How does that tell you what he or she is feeling?

ACT OUT: Make your face imitate the character's expression throughout the book. Can you match the emotion?

Recommended Books:

- **NOPE! A Tale of First Flight** by Drew Sheneman.
- **Little Fox in the Forest** by Stephanie Graegin
- **Draw the Line** by Kathryn Otoshi
- **Owl Bat Bat Owl** by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick
- **A Ball for Daisy** by Chris Raschka
- **Flora and the Peacocks** by Molly Idle

**Activities to Predict and Infer**

Because the illustrations tell the story, kids use deductive reasoning and creativity to fill in the blanks. Look for the details and make inferences.

**PREDICT:** Prediction means using the clues given to you in the story to infer what will probably happen later on in the story.

**MAKE DEDUCTIONS:** Sometimes what's going on is confusing. Use the illustrator's clues to figure out the story's plot and important details. On each page ask, "What is going on here?" David Wiesner's book are especially applicable to this question.

Recommended Books:

- **I Got It!** by David Wiesner
- **Professional Crocodile** by Giovanna Zoboli & Mariachiara di Giorgio
- **Tuesday** by David Wiesner
- **Skunk on a String** by Thao Lam
- **Where's Walrus? and Penguin?** by Stephen Savage
- **Inside Outside** by Lizi Boyd

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Activities to Practice Writing Dialogue

SPEECH BUBBLES: Upper elementary students start to learn about writing conversation, or dialogue. It's fun to introduce this concept with word bubbles on sticky notes. And, what better place than in a wordless picture book that needs words?

Recommended Books:

- *The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney
- *Chalk* by Bill Thomson
- *Good Dog, Carl* by Alexandra Day
- *Flora and the Penguin* by Molly Idle

Wordless Picture Book Writing Prompts

WRITE FROM ONE ILLUSTRATION: Use an illustration to spark your own creative story.

GET AN IDEA FROM THE WHOLE BOOK: Use a book to inspire and inform your own wordless picture book.

Recommended Books:

- *Little Butterfly* by Laura Logan
- *Imagine a City* by Elise Hurst
- *Red Again* by Barbara Lehman
- *Lines* by Suzy Lee
- *The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABCs (the Hard Way)* by Patrick McDonnell
- *The Conductor* by Laetitia Devernay
- *Boat of Dreams* by Rogerio Coelho

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