



HOW TO READ A WORDLESS BOOK

Tips & Ideas from the READ-ALOUD REVIVAL®

Wordless books are a powerful tool in our literacy toolkit. Not only do they help our kids see a story's narrative arc visually; they also invite readers to slow down, predict what will come next, make connections, and linger over a good story well told.

They offer pre-readers and developing readers a low-pressure way to gain confidence and develop an identity as "someone who reads."

There's no right or wrong way to read a wordless book, but these tips from [Episode 170 of the Read-Aloud Revival podcast](#) can help make reading wordless books easy, fun, and fruitful.

JUST... LOOK AT IT

No need to overcomplicate this! You can always simply look at a wordless book (yes, even silently!) and encounter all the elements of storytelling. This is enough.

"I WONDER" STATEMENTS

When we wonder aloud, we model the engaged reading life for our kids. Make statements like "I wonder why the illustrator chose these colors?" or "I wonder what will happen next?"

MENTION WHAT YOU SEE

You don't need to drill your kids with questions. Model what it looks like to engage with a wordless text by simply mentioning out loud what you see with your eyes. For example:

- "I see a little girl peeking out of that window back there..."
- "I bet the bear is going to try to ride that sled!"
- "Look at this!"

PLAY A GAME

Get playful with your read-aloud times. It's easy to do with wordless books!

- Take turns making up text to go with each page.
- Choose one single word for each page as you flip through the story.
- Try telling the story only using dialogue.