



# Raven Tree Press

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## How to Use a Wordless Picture Book

Maybe you have picked up a wordless picture book and put it down because you didn't know just exactly how to use it. In fact, wordless picture books are easier to use than you may think. Below are a few tips for navigating the world of wordless.

- 1) Page through the book having the child tell you what they think is going on in each picture. Take your time and allow the child to notice details along the way. This builds vocabulary, comprehension, communication skills, and sparks creativity and imagination. The time it takes to "read" a wordless picture book may be a bit longer than straight reading but it pays off in the skills that children gain by doing so.
- 2) Page through the book again and tell your child what you think might be happening in the story, building on some of their ideas or creating an entirely new version of your own
- 3) Sometimes a book may be almost wordless or have very limited words. These books are great for building creativity also. Ask your child what parts of the story are shown in the pictures. What is left out?
- 4) Identify the various animals or places shown in the wordless book. Research the habitat and interesting facts about your child's favorite animal/place in the book.
- 5) Have your child make a wordless picture book (crayons, paints, colored pencils) and use their drawings to tell their own story.

There are many rewards when you bring wordless picture books into a child's life. They gain confidence and a sense of wonder as they begin to learn to express themselves through their own words. They find out that using their imagination is fun!

Wordless picture books and picture books with limited words help children develop language, creative thinking and enhance future reading and writing skills. Using wordless picture books, children learn that reading follows a left-to-right pattern. They learn that stories generally have a beginning, a middle section and an ending. They also learn to identify details, see cause and effect, make judgements and draw conclusions. All this from a little time, a little imagination and a book with few, if any, words!

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