



Wordless picturebooks: dispelling myths

A picturebook parley

19 November 2021

12.00 (Lisbon) / 13.00 (Amsterdam & Paris)

A 20-minute, live-streamed, online encounter with Gail Ellis, Tatia Gruenbaum and Sandie Mourão. They talked about wordless picturebooks and dispelled eight myths:

1. Wordless picturebooks are picturebooks with no words.
2. Wordless picturebooks are best suited for pre-primary children because there are no words so it's easier for them to understand.
3. Wordless picturebooks are always narratives.
4. (Wordless) picturebooks are only used once and rarely returned to.
5. Wordless picturebooks can be read aloud.
6. When working with a wordless picturebook, the children's own language or shared classroom language should not be used.
7. When reading with a wordless picturebook, it is the teacher who reads / tells the story.
8. Wordless picturebooks are easy for a teacher to use because there are no words.

The picturebooks they mentioned were:

<i>Bluebird</i>	Bob Staake	Penguin Random House, 2013
<i>Hike</i>	Pete Oswald	Candlewick Press, 2020
<i>Lines</i>	Suzy Lee	Chronicle Books, 2017
<i>Pancakes for Breakfast</i>	Tomie dePaola	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing, 1978
<i>The Arrival</i>	Shaun Tan	Hodder Children's Books, 2006
<i>The Snowman</i>	Raymond Briggs	Puffin Books, 1980
<i>The Surprise</i>	Sylvia van Ommen	WingedChariot Press, 2002
<i>The Yellow Balloon</i>	Charlotte Dematons	Lemniscaat, 2003

Thank you to the PEPELT followers who completed the sentence for us.

Wordless books are ...

- ... an open window to imagination (Carla Rocha)
- ... a huge door to creativity (Gisele Périgo)
- ... an endless world! (Sabina Suizzo)
- ... are sparks of imagination (Sylvie Doláková)
- ... creative (Ana Madalena Silva)
- ... available in any language (Petra Rona)
- ... challengingly fabulishus! (YLT SIG)
- ... a never-ending story (Katerina Sotirova)
- ... infamously creative!!! (Acacia Mendes)
- ... magical! (Claudia Comte)
- ... an endless possibility (Mercedes Pérez Berbain)