

# Illustrative Story Books Promotes Logical Thinking among the Young Learners

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Area of the Study -

Children (Age group): 3 to 8 years

Period: Modern Times

Experimental Area: Zonal division (Urban and Rural)

*“Seeing is more believable than any other Phenomenon”*

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## INTRODUCTION

Every work of illustration exhibits characters, situation, visual composition and an obvious story. This need to be considered valued and discovered. An understanding of the basic concept can sometime inspire to locate the hidden story more efficiently. Use of illustrations helps making pictures in our heads (visualizing). It gives us, context cues, sense of the story, clarifies language, patterns and develops prior knowledge to identify words. It also confirms meaning, to make connections between viewers themselves, or their experiences they have already gone through, or some extinguishing wonders that could curiously, fascinate them. Let's begin with reviewing wordless Picture Books.

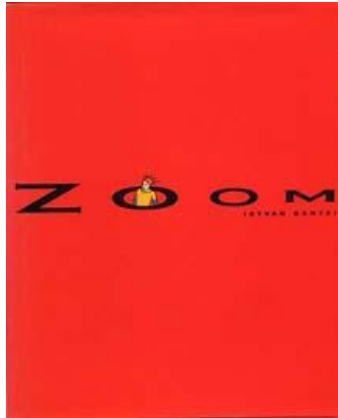
## LEARNING THROUGH WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS

*The illustrations done for wordless picture books, creatively brings crafty picture clues that help the reader, to focus on the story line, colour, size, perspective, and repetitive visuals.* Illustrators use these visual elements to help its audience to identify story details, add new information, and the development of the story interest. Graphic organizer use picture clues as continuous narrative illustrations, showing action snap-shots of a character engaged in a series of sequence in different style. There are surely many reasons to choose a wordless picture book to share with your child. And the most important reason for choosing a book that your child likes could help you expand the conversations, further developing literacy and language skills in fun and enjoying manner.

Virtually, wordless books seldom, invite children to consider things around them from a different point of view, which they might not have considered otherwise. Regards to this, the most stunning example that we must review is the book *‘Zoom’ (1998)*, imagined and then illustrated, by *‘Istvan Banyai’*. The story is told completely through detailed illustrations with fascinating appeal of visual trickery motives. Each page starts with an image and continues to "zoom" out, getting bigger to showing that what you see could turn into something else completely. This is a very clever picture book, telling us that the zoom image of the farm is actually in the magazine and the magazine is in someone's hand near a pool etc. the illustrations lead us to enjoy imageries of mysterious landscapes



from a farm to a ship to a city street to a desert island, which would tease and delight readers of all ages. This engaging, springboard package is amazing for discussing perspective and perception.



**Zoom (Picture Puffin Books)**  
– July 1, 1998, by Istvan Banyai

The title is written in black in big text, with a boy popping out of one of the "O's" with a surprised look on his face. The title page is the reverse of the cover. The page is black, with the title in red ink. The title may need explanation, but the storyline follows the dream sequence of a young boy. However, this book is an exception and could be used in the classroom for prediction and sequence of events/snapshots. As even with no words at all, the reader is left only with brilliant pictures and left wondering what will be on the next page. The format of the book is made interesting, utilizes a single page spread with its left side of each set of pages kept black, forcing the reader to really focus on the pictures on the right hand side of the page. Typically the pictures in a picture book show movement through actions on the page or the corresponding text below, but this text focuses solely on non-moving pictures. The colours used are depicts real situation, yet with the slight blend of cartoonist characterization.

When we turn the pages of a charming wordless tale *'The Red Book' (2004)* by 'Lehman', experience a new kind of adventure through the power of story. This book is about a magical book that won a Caldecott Honour for its illustrations of rare detail and surprise. The pictures are cropped and framed to depict a story of a girl who finds the book in the snow. As she peeps into her treasure (the book), she is transported in different maps and scenes, finding a friend within the adventures. Although seemingly simple the illustrations in ink-and-wash panels show successively closer views of a tropical paradise. Green islands on a map loom, a single beach comes into focus, and a small black point grows to become a boy. The Red Book crosses oceans and continents to transport us along with the little girl into a new world of possibility, where a friend she's never met is waiting. The magical red book allows children to see and eventually visit each other across vast spaces. This delightful fantasy uses changes in aerial perspective to create wonder, at the conclusion of the story that the journey is not yet over.

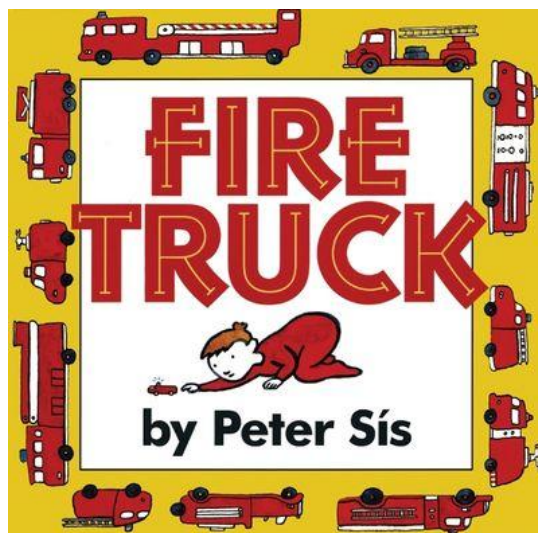
"... The whole point of illustration is that it is literary. If it is not, it remains a drawing only." -**Raymond Briggs**. The Snowman by author and illustrator Raymond Briggs has intrigued and delighted young children since it was first published in 1978. Simple images tell the story of a small boy who builds a snowman and then when the snowman magically comes to life one night, it provides a dreamy adventure for the boy, as they flies above the frozen countryside. To the end, they hurry back, as the sun is rising, and the boy finds the snowman melted. The pictures are inviting to children, both in the colours chosen and in the media used. Almost all of the illustrations are done in comic-book format, with multiple panels. The softly rounded panels and the misty illustrations with the use of pencil crayons has a softer quality, ideally suited and seemed right for snow, creating a feeling of silence and peace. Illustrations not only had easily "read" sequence, but also truly communicated emotions through detailed facial expressions.



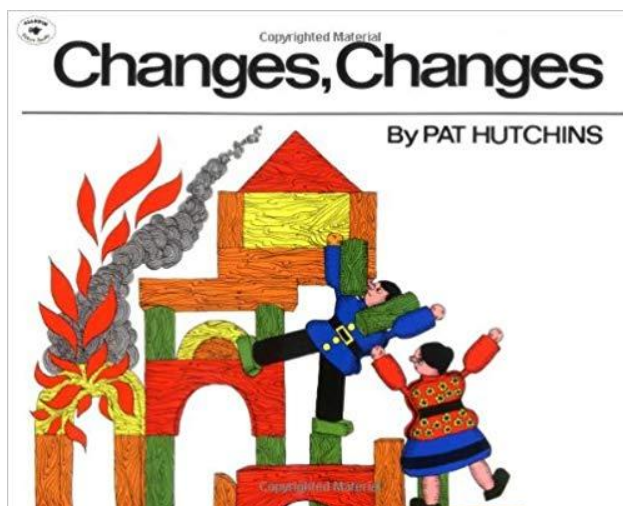
The popularity of the book leads the concept to be adapted into a 26-minute animated film in 1982 which debuted on British television that 26 December. It was nominated for an Academy Award. Its showings have become an annual event and even international in some cases.

### INTERESTING TOY STORIES

Furthermore, children loves to listen to the tales of their toys, as they always wish their toys to get alive. To discuss few exceptional stories, we must review the efforts of Master illustrator **'Quentin Blake'**, who has created a discarded toy 'Clown' character with an action-filled plot, and a story that can be enjoyed on several levels, without the use of a single word. The picture book **'Clown'** (1998) presents a positive story that follow the fortunes of Clown, who escapes from a city trashcan and finds a new home for himself and his stuffed animal friends. He starts in a garbage can and ends up in a happy family. Blake's Interestingly created ink and watercolour washes interpreted within the pictures. This story serves as a mime act unfolding with lots of charming action and movement.



*Illustration by Peter Sis , 'fire truck' (1998)*



*'Changes, Changes' by Pat Hutchins (1987)*



Whereas, in another interesting book series, the author and illustrator **Peter Sis** takes the hallmark sparse text of '*fire truck*' (1998) and '*trucks truckstrucks*' (1999), one step further. Similarly, in his book '*Dinosaur*' (2000), and with his '*ship ahoy!*' wordless book series, here, once again Peter Sis paints the everyday adventure a boy's imagination, turns fantastic. It begins as a small boy imagine while playing with his toy dinosaur in the bathtub. Soon, toy dinosaurs begin to changes in scale and number creeping into the pictures. In simple gouache painting with line drawings, this wordless book shows perfectly how an ominous, blue snout slowly emerges from the bath water and mayhem breaks loose--one dinosaur turns into two, three, and more; the bathtub melts into a prehistoric pond; and the boy is suddenly in an ancient desert, with a crowd of beautifully detailed 'Dinos' thundering across a foldout spread. Until the end as the boy stands happily in the tub with the last Dino tail nearly off the left page, as an anxious mother runs with a towel to the scene. This imaginative story with wonderful endpapers naming the creatures with a guide to dinosaur species is just right for sharing with a young dinosaur fan. Commonly again, one colour is highlighted: 'Red' in 'fire truck', 'Blue' in 'ship ahoy!', 'Orange' in 'trucks truckstrucks', and now green in title 'Dinosaur'.

Highly appreciated and recommend book for children ages 3, 4, and 5, is the book titled '*Changes, Changes*' by **Pat Hutchins** (1987). As many of our little ones take pleasure in playing with building blocks, it seems that they would surely enjoy the images of the blocks being built into various things. It shows how the two wooden toy people (couple) face a series of misadventures including a fire and as a solution; they transform the house into a fire engine! But then there's so much water. The water caused a flood and they then had to build a boat to sail away on. However, they arrive safely on shore and build a truck and then a train and, eventually, they re-built their new home, to find happiness once again. The illustrations prepared with black out-lining and separate overlays for mainly primary colours providing a positive effect on the story. Bold images do a wonderful job of telling the story of how a family overcomes adversity, using playing blocks to change their setting in imaginative ways. Viewing wooden blocks which most children have seen and played with, 'Hutchins' demonstrates how thinking and creativity can lead to solutions to come out of any crazy situations. It is an extremely creative book for children who love reading books about toys.

### AROUSING EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Illustrative stories books, serves as a good visual aid to show that even in the mist of darkness there could be always a pleasant surprise waiting for us that waits to be discovered. With help of these books they venture effortlessly making an attempt to shake off their fears through exploring danger, risks, dares, and thrills with visual experiences. *The work of illustration promotes the scope of gaining knowledge. Knowledge about the concept of time, colour, number, mass, volume and weight, or it may simply project the concepts of likes and dislikes, similarities and differences or war and peace.*

Let's take the example of popular bronze Outdoor sculpture, of the mother duck (Mrs. Mallard) and her eight ducklings by '**Nancy Schon**' in the Public Garden in Boston Public Garden, which is actually associates with a picture book story, '*Make Way for Ducklings*'. The happy event host's an annual Duckling Day parade each spring, with children and their parents dressed as ducklings participates to enjoy the parental bounding's and familiar locales, from Beacon Hill to Louisburg Square, and over the Charles River--often from a duck's-eye view. A child identifies themselves with the ducklings because they behave as children do. It also messages the advantages of devoted motherhood and shows parents as caretakers, protectors, hence the story of the book, has whole-heartedly embraced the story by its readers.

Child's curiosities bring life to the symbolic story of these ducks Sculpture. Their logical thinking and understanding for the work of illustration directly depend on the response of the concerned adult to analyze and interpret the Child's curiosity, in considerable direction. Visuals learning arouse a deeper level of engagement and curiosity in a child and that propel the child to continue valuable educational experiences. Story books with comprehensive illustrated frameworks, that could do wonders to implement to think critically and understand, personal situations, with sometimes 'Real world' examples or sometimes with entertaining fantasies, to empower their imaginations.



These books are especially cantered on a child's ability to think, learn, and solve problems that could be recommended and collected for school and home library.

To name a few such books could list out to be, the most *Distinguished Picture Books* like '**Where the Wild Things Are**' (1964) by **Maurice Sendak** that features, a little boy named Max who travels to a land of monsters and confidently becomes king of them all. Or the book such as '**Quick as a Cricket**' by '**Audrey Wood**' that rejoices to celebrates a child's unbridled imagination, as he looks at the world around him and sees himself reflected in all its marvellous creatures, and hence, he discovers, what's truly special about other things around him. Or enjoying the iconic book, "*Your Fantastic, Elastic Brain*" by '**JoAnn Deak**' that illustratively narrates to teach children, the ability to stretch and grow their own brains.

### SUMMARY

Storytelling is a means for sharing and interpreting experiences and hence promotes logical thinking. *Stories are universal in that they can bridge cultural, linguistic, and age-related divides. Storytelling can be used as a method to teach logically the values of ethics, cultural norms and their differences.* Stories are effective educational tools because listeners become engaged and therefore remember. Listening to a storyteller can create lasting personal connections, promote innovative problem solving, and foster a shared understanding regarding future ambitions. Storytelling is used as a tool to teach children the importance of respect through practice of listening.

*Illustrative stories stimulate not logical thinking but also promote reading fluency, as well as helps in expressive articulation.* And this happens through a variety of mechanism, the main one being the fact that the simultaneous working of the left side of the brain with the right side building greater neural connectivity and sight memory. Delightfully engaging Illustrations, with easy to read story books, also acts as the *excellent resource tool for the special children having a learning disability, including dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD, and visual motor deficit, further these illustrative narrations, also enriches confidence-boosting progress, to function, thrive, and learn as individuals.* Thus, we come to the conclusion observing that, illustrative stories books, serves as a good visual aid to show that even in the mist of darkness there could be always a pleasant surprise, waiting for us that wait's to be discovered and rediscovered.

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