

Stories without Words

The following list is a sample of stories told through illustrations rather than words. In addition to being wonderful stories, these books can be great tools for reluctant readers who can make up their own narratives to go along with the illustrations. These titles are shelved in the Picture Book section by the first three letters of the author's last name. Need help? Ask a librarian!

Becker, Aaron. **Journey**. (E BEC)

Using a red marker, a young girl draws a door on her bedroom wall and through it enters another world where she experiences many adventures, including being captured by an evil emperor. (If you like this book, check out the sequels: **Quest** and **Return** by Aaron Becker.)

Cole, Henry. **Spot, the Cat**. (E COL)

In this wordless picture book, a cat named Spot ventures out an open window and through a city on a journey, while his owner tries to find him.

Cole, Henry. **Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad**. (E COL)

In this wordless picture book, a young Southern farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding behind the corn crib in the barn and decides to help him.

Colón, Raúl. **Draw!** (E COL)

In this wordless picture book, a boy who is confined to his room fills his sketch pad with lions and elephants, then imagines himself on a safari.

Fleischman, Paul and Hawkes, Kevin. **Sidewalk Circus**. (E FLE)

A young girl watches as the activities across the street from her bus stop become a circus.

Idle, Molly. **Flora and the Flamingo**. (E IDL)

A tentative partnership blooms into an unlikely friendship between a girl named Flora and a graceful flamingo in this wordless book about dance.

Lawson, JonArno. **Sidewalk Flowers**. (E LAW)

A little girl collects wildflowers while on a walk with her distracted father. Each flower becomes a gift, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter.

Lehman, Barbara. **The Red Book**. (E LEH)

In detailed illustrations, a young girl crosses oceans and continents to meet a new friend, in a wordless book-within-a-book story.

Murrow, Vita. **The Whale**. (E MUR)

There is a legend that a Great Spotted Whale lives in the ocean, although a sighting fifty years ago was never corroborated. Now two young whale watchers each set out to find the whale, one armed with sound-recording equipment, the other with a camera. The Murrows spectacular wordless adventure is brought to life with stunning graphite drawings that convey the drama and haunting beauty of the ocean and capture the majesty of the awe-inspiring whale.

Newgarden, Mark & Megan Montague Cash. **Bow-Wow's Nightmare Neighbors**. (E NEW)

Bow-Wow, an expressive dog, tangles with some unruly neighbors in this wordless, spooky Halloween picture book.

Pett, Mark. **The Boy and the Airplane.** (E PET)

A wordless picture book in which a boy comes up with an inventive solution for getting his toy airplane down from the roof.

Pett, Mark. **The Girl and the Bicycle.** (E PET)

A wordless picture book in which a girl sees a bicycle she wants to buy, works hard for a kindly neighbor to earn the money for it, then gets a pleasant surprise.

Pinkney, Jerry. **The Lion & the Mouse.** (E PIN)

In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle.

Raschka, Chris. **A Ball for Daisy.** (E RAS)

A wordless picture book about all the fun a dog can have with her ball.

Savage, Stephen. **Where's Walrus?** (E SAV)

In this wordless picture book, follow Walrus on a happy-go-lucky spree through the big city, as he tries on different hats to disguise himself from the chasing zookeeper.

Savage, Stephen. **Where's Walrus? and Penguin?** (E SAV)

When Walrus and his friend Penguin escape from the zoo, Will the zookeeper must find them.

Staake, Bob. **Bluebird.** (E STA)

A wordless picture book about the inspiring friendship that develops between a bluebird and a young boy.

Timmers, Leo. **Bang.** (E TIM)

When a driver, who is not paying attention to where he is going, crashes into a trash can, he sets off a series of accidents with unexpected outcomes.

Wiesner, David. **Flotsam.** (E WIE)

A bright boy goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam--anything floating that has washed ashore. While there, he discovers a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera with its own secrets to share.

Wiesner, David. **Tuesday.** (E WIE)

Frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore the nearby houses while their inhabitants sleep.

Yi, Chi-hyŏn. **Pool.** (E YI)

Two shy children meet at a noisy pool and dive beneath the crowd into a magical undersea land, where they explore a fantastical landscape and meet various creatures.