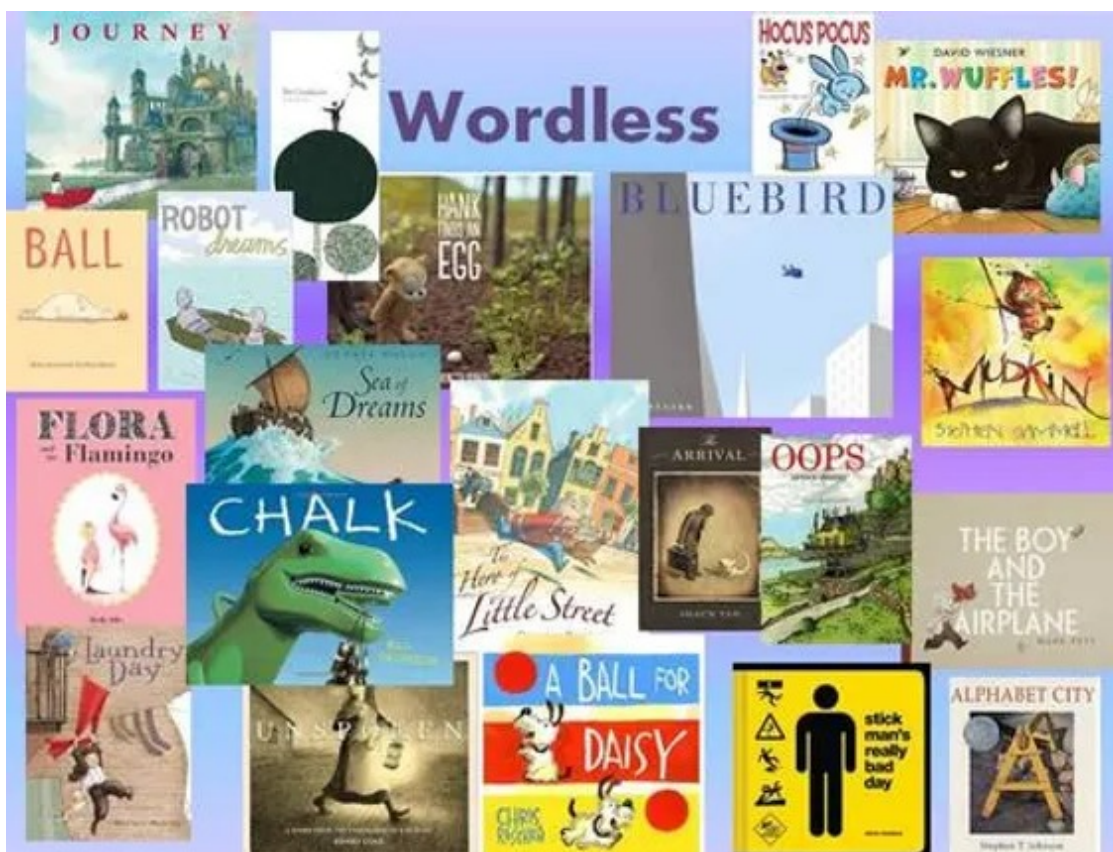


# What's the point of



# wordless books?



## Routine

Receiving a wordless book home is the very beginning of your child's reading journey, and gives you the opportunity to establish a reading routine without the pressure of actually 'reading' the book.

You can decide on the best time of day, and best place to share the book together. Try and find a place with few distractions. It might be just before breakfast, before dinner, at bedtime - whatever suits you and your child.

Where do you think would be best place to share our book?

When do you think is the best time for us?

Are you comfortable and ready to look through the book now?



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## Book Care

Model how to look after the book sent home from School, holding it correctly and turning the pages carefully. Let your child practice this and take the opportunity to look after it. Discuss the different parts of the book, including the front cover, title, back cover and spine.

Books cost school a considerable amount of money, and we definitely appreciate you having these conversations and preventing them from getting damaged!

And PLEASE - don't put the reading book in the same bag as a water bottle without making sure the water bottle is fully fastened!

Can you show me where the spine of the book is?

Show me how to hold the book correctly?

Why do we need to look after this book?



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## Oracy Skills

Wordless books are a great opportunity to develop oracy (speaking and listening) skills in children, and support literacy with conversations.

By sharing the book in a quiet space, you can really focus on discussing the illustrations and story. Encourage children to ask questions about the pictures, given their point of view, listen to others and talk about what is happening.

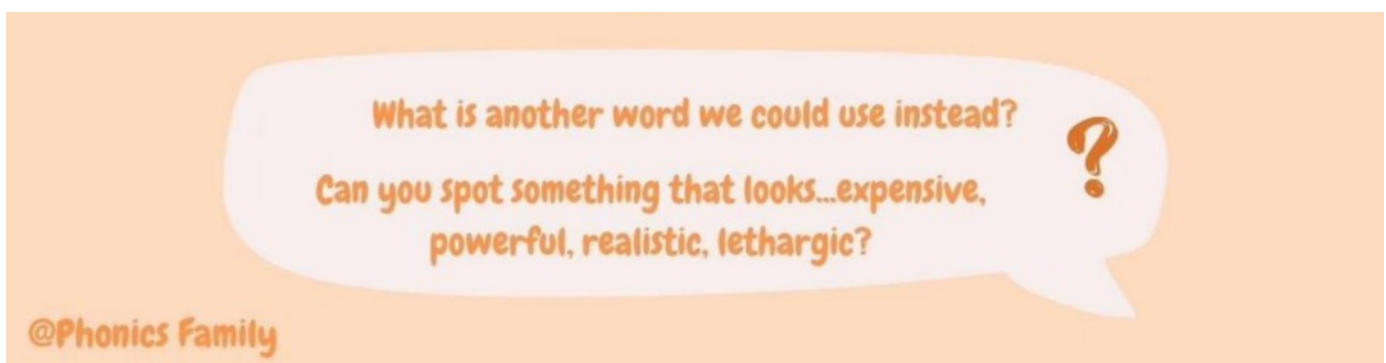
*“Oral narrative skills are crucial to early literacy development, as they assist children in making the transition between oral narrative and written text”, Collins and Glover, 2015*



## Vocabulary

Wordless books are a great way to expand children’s vocabulary. Vocabulary is a key predictor of later academic success.

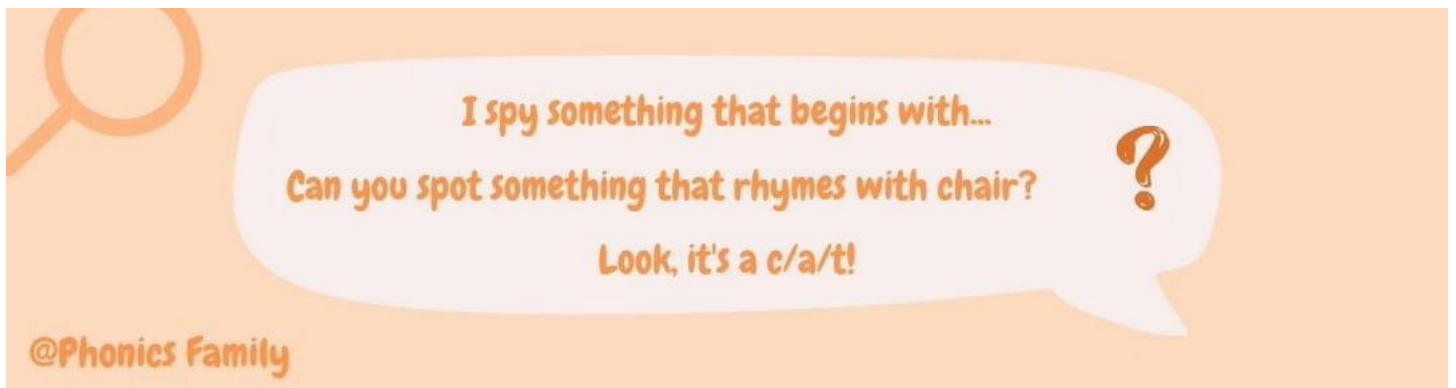
You can name the objects you see in the illustrations and identify anything they may not be familiar with. Once you’ve named the objects, you could encourage children to add a describing word - ‘that is a big tree’. On the next read, you can model using a different word for big - “that is an enormous tree’, or add a verb - “the children are playing near the tree”



## Phonological Awareness

Phonological Awareness is the awareness of all of the sounds of language. It's the ability to hear and distinguish sounds. Even with a wordless book, you can prepare children for later Phonics learning by developing their phonological awareness skills. These skills are the foundation of learning to read.

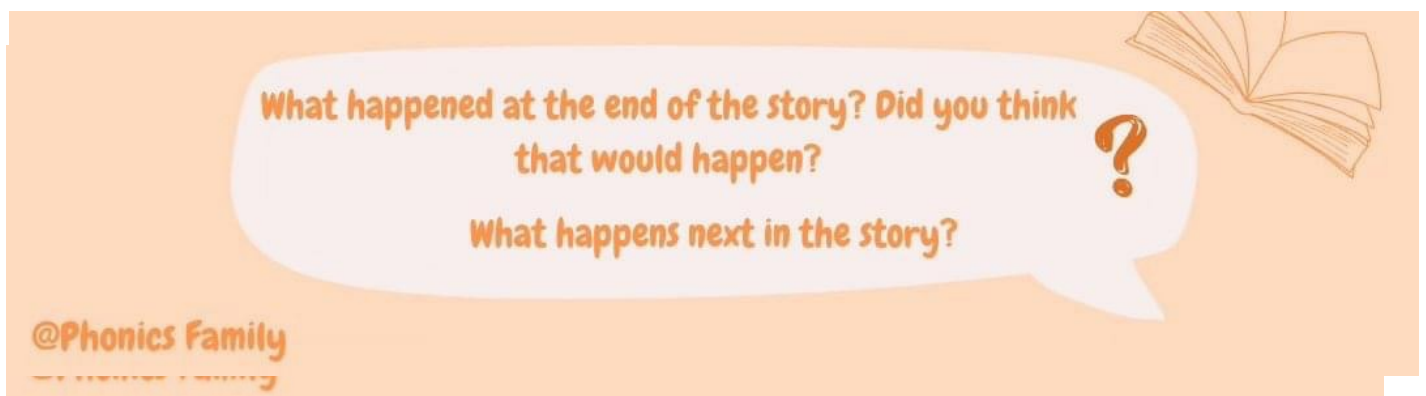
You could point out or think of something that rhymes with an illustration or play I-Spy and find objects that start with a certain sound. You could also clap the syllables in words, or you can segment the phonemes in a word, and your child can practice blending these sounds together to form the whole word, and point to the right picture



## Story Structure

A story is told through the illustrations within a wordless book, rather than the text. The stories will still have a beginning, middle and end and, quite likely, a problem and resolution. Identifying these features within a story is great practice for when children are able to independently read books, and it will positively impact their comprehension.

Discuss what is happening at the beginning of the story and predict what they think might happen at the end. Can they retell the story in the correct sequence using words like first, after that, then, next and finally?



## Retelling and Imagination

Once you have shared the story several times, you can encourage your child to retell it in their own words. Can they correctly sequence the main events in the story?

You can prompt them to act the story out through role-play or using small toys, dolls or finger puppets. Acting out and retelling stories can further develop their familiarity with story structure and expand vocabulary and comprehension skills - and it's fun!

Many children will love the practical playful nature of retelling stories through role-play.

What could we use to retell the story?

What happened at the beginning, middle and end?



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**So much learning from a book with no words!**