Journey
By Aaron Becker
Theme: Adventures (May 2014)

This beautiful, wordless picture book follows the adventures of a young girl who escapes the boredom of home to find a magical realm – in which she can control her destiny with her imagination. Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations. Sharing wordless books with a child provides a wonderful opportunity for literacy-rich conversations.

Key Message for Parents:
Children Learn Language by Listening to It And Using It
Children develop language and literacy skills from birth in many ways including:
• Talking together, using a variety of descriptive words, not just the names of things
• Listening to each other. Wait for a response when talking and reading together
• Sharing books together. Use books with beautiful pictures and spend time talking together about the book
• Playing, making and getting messy together. Doing things together and talking about them helps to build your child’s vocabulary.

Learning Outcome 4: Children are Confident and Involved Learners
Educators can promote this learning by:
• Providing learning experiences that are flexible and open-ended
• Listening carefully to children’s ideas, thoughts and feelings
• Model creative thinking processes including wonder, curiosity and imagination.

Welcome
Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and remind them that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Sing - Welcome Song (or your preferred song)
Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher’s paper for the adults to read and join in.
Good Morning
Good morning to you
Good morning to you
Good morning everybody
And welcome to you!

Song about a journey
This is the way we drive the car....
This is the way we drive the car, drive the car, drive the car
This is the way we drive the car so early in the morning
This is the way we fly a plane, fly a plane, fly a plane
This is the way we fly a plane so early in the morning
This is the way we ride a bike, ride a bike, ride a bike
This is the way we ride a bike so early in the morning.

A few notes before you start:
Reading wordless books to children is both challenging and rewarding. Because the book has no words, it is important to remember that there is no one right or wrong version of the story. As an adult reading with children, you will have a version of the story that you can share. The children listening to the story will have their own ideas and imagination and their own versions of the story to also share. Children who have not experienced a book without words before may take some time to become accustomed to the idea that you can create the story together by talking about each picture without there being one correct version.

Before Reading
If you are able to do so, you could hold a large red texta in your hand and ask the children what it is and what does it do? If you have an easel or whiteboard, you could use the texta to draw a doorway such as the one on page 7 that the little girl draws. You could talk with the children about the doorway. To encourage children to think about using their imaginations, where there are a lot of different answers and no one right answer, you can ask the children to think about what is on the other side of the door. Agree with all of the answers, and encourage children who haven’t had a turn to think of what their answer would be. Try not to provide suggestions of answers, rather, pose questions such as ‘what could be behind the door that could be on land? What could be in the air? What could be in the sea?’ Before reading, ensure that all children are settled and sitting close enough to see all of the images.

For more book suggestions, tip sheets, nursery rhymes, songs and fun things to make and do please visit: thelittlebigbookclub.com.au
During Reading
This book can be read numerous times. You can show the book all the way through just to look at it, and invite children to point out the things that they can see or find. You can then take your time examining each page. You will need to pose questions to encourage children to participate in forming ideas and using their imaginations about the story, such as “what is the little girl doing here? How is she feeling? What is going to happen next?” There are highlighted colours such as red and purple to explore that are significant. You can also explore landscapes: land, water and air. Another aspect to the story is the exploration of feelings: loneliness, freedom, friendship. The most important thing is that wordless picture books invite conversation and imagination. The adult does not need to have all of the answers. Let the children talk and listen to each other and revisit the story a few times to keep the conversation going about the journey of the little girl.

After Reading
You can go back to your picture of the door that you drew before the story with your red texta. You can think again about what your favourite place in your imagination might be behind that red door. You could think about what your favourite place in the story was as well. You can also think about what else you could draw with the red texta. The little girl drew a boat, a balloon, a wheel for a bike, and these things took her on new adventures. Take some ideas from the children about what to draw with the red texta that could take you on a journey to a new place in your imagination.

There is a purple bird in the story that symbolises freedom. There are many songs and rhymes about birds that you can share. Here are two:

Song: Little Bird (Sung To: “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”)
Little bird, little bird, fly around,
Up to the sky, down to the ground.
Little bird, little bird, flap your wings.
Open your beak and sweetly sing.
Little bird, little bird, fly to your nest.
Now it is time to take a rest.

A rhyme about birds:
I saw a little bird go hop, hop, hop.
I told the little bird to stop, stop, stop.
I went to the window to say 'How do you do?'
He wagged his little tail and far away he flew!
Extension activity for after reading:
Aaron Becker has a website in which he has created an animated trailer of the beginning of the story. If you have the opportunity, this is a wonderful visual way to share a part of the story with the children. The link is here:  [http://www.storybreathing.com/journey-trailer/](http://www.storybreathing.com/journey-trailer/)

You may also be interested in the brief documentary on the website detailing the making of the book.

**Activity Time**

**Make a door into a new world**

What you need:
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Crayons/pencils
- Two A4 pieces of blank paper

1. On a blank piece of A4 paper, draw a large door with four sides.
2. With an adult to help, cut around three sides of the door.
3. Fold the fourth side of the door so that it opens.
4. On another blank piece of paper, draw an imaginary world of your own. It could be a place from the story or it could be another place that you know and love, or a place that you have made up.
5. Place the door page over the top of the blank page that you have drawn on. Secure the pages together with some tape or glue at the corners. Close the door, then open it to show your own special place that you can go on a journey to. Share stories about your journeys with each other.

**Extension:**
As a group you can write your own story of an imaginary journey that you could go on together. You can write the story or you can tell the story in pictures.

**Activity Time**

**Create your own imaginary world**

You can create a special doorway into an imaginary world in your space, by placing a sheet or blanket over a table or over two chairs to create a place that you can walk through or crawl through.

In your imaginary world you can play music on a CD player, have dress ups, masks and hats, you can have animal soft toys and cushions, cardboard boxes to use as cars, boats, or balloons to fly in, tea sets for tea parties, a jungle with green crepe paper hanging from a part of the ceiling, a tent to sit
inside as a castle, a reading corner with lots of wordless picture books to explore. This is free play without direction, however you may need to encourage children or lead them to an activity if they are not sure about what to do.

Afterwards you can all exit through the door into the real world again. Talk about the wonderful journey you had and the things that you did in the imaginary world.

**Goodbye**
Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area.

- The Red Wheelbarrow by Briony Stewart (wordless book)
- Jack and the Flumflum Tree by Julia Donaldson and David Roberts
- The Worst Princess by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvy

**Goodbye Song**
*This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action)*
Say goodbye, say goodbye
*This is the way we say goodbye*
To all our library friends (or) :) to our friend.....)

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child’s name in the last line rather than ‘library friends’ as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of *(Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)* or your preferred choice.