

## Wordless Picture Book Unit

### Teacher Prompts

#### Encouraging story-telling and narration:

- What are the people doing?
- What is happening in this picture?
- If this book had words, what would they be?
- How does the picture help us know what will happen next?
- What else do you see in the picture?
- Does it look like there is anything missing from this picture?
- Is there another way to describe what you see? What other words can you use?
- Tell me what happens at this point in the story.
- If you were telling someone this story, what would you say is going on now?
- What happened here? Why does this happen?

#### Story sequencing:

- What happens at the beginning of this story?
- What happens in the middle of the story?
- What happens at the end of the story?
- Where do you think that picture is leading us?
- What do you think happened right before this?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How does your story begin? Do you know other stories that begin this way?
- What do you think happened before this story began?

#### Focusing on story elements: Characters

- Who is in this story?
- What do they do?
- Who is that?
- What is their relationship to one another?
- How do you think the people in this picture feel? Why?
- What do you think the characters are thinking? Why?
- What do you think the people would be saying here? Why would they be saying that?
- What are the characters doing or trying to do?

#### Focusing on story elements: Setting

- What's in the background?
- Where is the story taking place?
- When does the story happen?
- Does this story take place indoors or outdoors? How do you know?
- Is this story happening in the present or the past? How do you know?
- Where is this picture taking place? Is this the same place as the picture before? Is it the same place as the one depicted on the cover?
- Have you ever been to a place like the one shown in the story? If you were going to draw that place, what would you add or do differently?

### Building Comprehension (predictions, analysis, etc):

- This is the last picture in the story. If the story continued, what do you think would happen next?
- Think about the picture on the cover of the book. Can you make connections between that picture and the pictures inside the book? What is similar? What is different? Why do you think that particular picture was chosen for the book?
- Is there anything you see that appears repeatedly as we look at this story? Why do you think the author put it there?
- Think about the title of the book. How does the title relate to the story? Is there a connection between the title and the pictures in the story?
- What do you think of the main character? Do you like him/her?
- Is there anything about this story you don't understand?
- Think about the predictions you made based on the cover and title. How were your predictions different from what actually happens in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this title? Does the title seem to fit the story? Now that you've read the whole story, can you think of another good title?
- Tell me about the title you chose for this story. What does this tell me about the story? Why did you choose it? Were there other titles you considered?
- Was there anything in the story or pictures that you had questions about?
- Why do you think the story was set in this particular place?
- Let's look back at this page. Why is this an important part of the story?
- Did the pictures or the story follow a pattern?
- How long do you think it took the story to happen?
- Who is telling the story?
- Why do the characters do what they do? Why does the story end the way it does?
- Is there a pattern in this book? What is it?
- What kinds of things do you see in the pictures? Is there anything hidden? Anything repeated?

### Making personal connections:

- Is anyone in this story related to you?
- What do you find interesting in this picture? What draws your attention?
- What do you think the artist wanted us to think about this picture? Where do you think he or she wanted us to focus our attention?
- Do you agree with the story?
- Have you had an experience like the one in the story?
- How do the pictures/story make you feel? Happy, sad, sorry, angry? Why?
- Which character interests you the most? Why?
- What did you like most about this story?
- Does anyone in this story remind you of anyone you know?
- Based on your own experiences, is there anything about this story you would change if you were telling it?

#### **Material for this handout includes information from:**

*"Talking About Wordless Picture Books: A Tutor Strategy Supporting English Language Learners"* (Janet M. Fulton and the National Center for Family Literacy, 2006), <http://www.familit.osrg/pdf/talking-about-wordless-picture-books.pdf> and *"Children's Comprehension of Narrative Picture Books"* (Alison H. Paris & Scott G. Paris, Center for the Improvement for Early Reading Achievement, 2001), <http://www.ciera.org/library/reports/inquiry-3/3-012/3-012.pdf>