

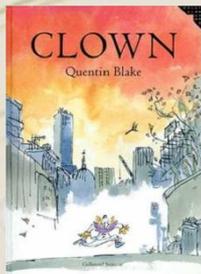
# Wordless Picture Books



**The Snowman** by Raymond Briggs

*Puffin 9780723275534*

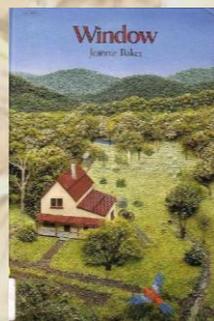
A classic wordless book about a boy who makes a snowman which comes to life at night. Their adventure together involves a flight through a snow-filled sky and the dénouement is full of feeling. The film with its memorable accompanying music has become a perennial Christmas favourite.



**Clown** by Quentin Blake

*Red Fox 9780099493617*

Readers will need to bring their understanding of narrative informed by the conventions of comics to this story which has the cinematic quality of a silent film. The clown is an unwanted toy which comes to life and, after trials and tribulations, finds a happy home. The children's literature tradition that only children are aware that a toy is alive is maintained throughout.



**Window** by Jeannie Baker

*Walker 9780744594867*

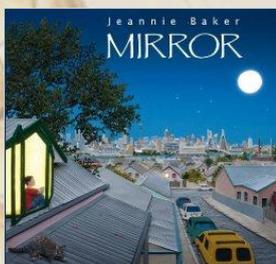
A book which could provoke much discussion about the effects of humanity on the environment. A view from the same window is seen over a period of twenty years, as a newborn child grows to adulthood, showing the changes that take place. The collage illustrations are almost tactile.



**Belonging** by Jeannie Baker

*Walker 9781406305487*

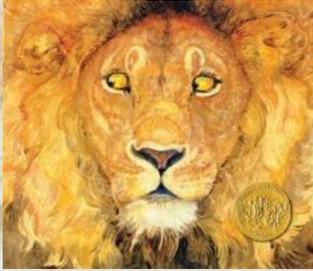
This companion volume to *Window* charts the changes in an urban neighbourhood by viewing it through the same window frame as a baby grows to womanhood and has her own child. Not entirely wordless as there many examples of environmental print.



**Mirror** by Jeannie Baker

*Walker 9781406309140*

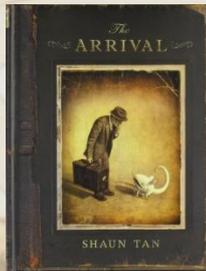
What links two families, one living in Sydney, Australia, the other in a village in southern Morocco? Their lives are explored, side by side, in pictures which follow the directionality of their respective written scripts, English and Arabic. Jeannie Baker's realistic collage pictures portray seemingly starkly different lifestyles but the design and layout of the book facilitate reflection on their similarities. Close examination of the details reveals the Moroccan family's engagement with modern technology and the Australian family's appreciation of long established craft and culture while the specific connection between them is made apparent.



### **The Lion and the Mouse** by Jerry Pinkney

*Walker 9781406332049*

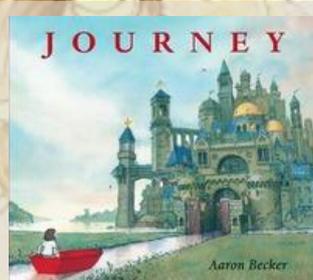
An almost wordless picture book, save for the haunting animal noises of the savannah. Jerry Pinkney, an African American illustrator, has located the story in Africa and this is especially apparent in the first endpaper illustration, richly abundant with animal life including elephants, giraffes and zebras. However, in the body of the book, the focus is firmly on the two protagonists. The magnificently maned lion who spares the mouse who accidentally finds his way into the big cat's clutches. The larger than life mouse who leaps from frame to frame and returns the favour by gnawing through the rope binding the ensnared lion. The final endpaper depicts a family friendship between the two species.



### **The Arrival** by Shaun Tan

*Hodder 9780340969939*

This graphic novel tells many stories through expressive sepia illustrations which depict a strange mix of the realistic and the surreal. A man travels to another country leaving his wife and child behind. Why does he go? What is this country where he finds it so hard to understand what is going on and to be understood? He gradually finds ways to communicate and other people start to tell him their own stories. By not making the settings identifiable places and by adding many surrealistic touches, Shaun Tan allows this story to be simultaneously about a specific migrant and every migrant. A unique book to be puzzled over, discussed and made the reader's own.



### **Journey** by Aaron Becker

*Walker 9781406355345*

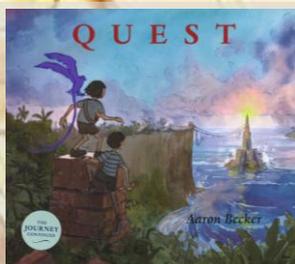
A girl sits forlornly in a sepia world, ignored by her busy family. Spying a spot of colour in the shape of a red crayon, she draws a door through which she escapes to a green forest, illuminated by sparkling lights and blue lanterns, threaded through with a stream which leads her to the next stage of her journey, once she has drawn a red boat. She sails into the centre of a huge castle and, from there, draws new forms of transport so that she can explore this fantastic world. Then - disaster - she loses the red crayon. Will she be able to return home or even continue her journey? The entire story is told through pictures full of magical detail. The colour red stands for play, imagination and doorways to enchantment. As the journey progresses, the colour mauve also comes into its own... See <http://vimeo.com/48536711> for a video about the making of this book.



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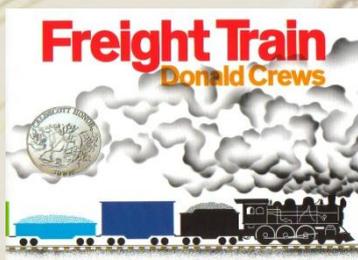
www.clpe.org.uk



**Quest** by Aaron Becker

Walker 9781406357660

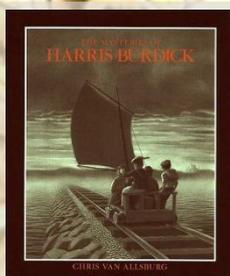
In this sequel to *Journey*, Aaron Becker picks up the idea of the colours red and mauve joining forces. The girl with the red crayon and the boy with the mauve crayon enter a door into another world after a king hands them a rainbow map before he is dragged away by soldiers, dropping an orange crayon in the mêlée. The pair have been challenged to undertake a quest, one which will take them over many terrains, encountering a multitude of dangers, before they reach the rainbow's end.



**Freight Train** by Donald Crews

Phoenix Yard 9781907912108

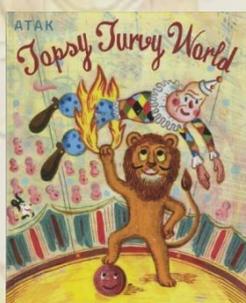
An exciting introduction to concepts about colour with a simple text and memorable illustrations. A black steam engine pulls trucks of different colours performing different functions along a track, moving faster and faster until the colours begin to merge and blend.



**The Mysteries of Harris Burdick** by Chris Van Allsburg

Andersen Press 9781849392792

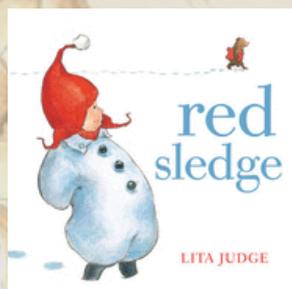
The premise behind this unique book of pictures is that the fourteen drawings within it were left with a publisher by a man named Harris Burdick who subsequently disappeared. Each black and white drawing purports to be a single illustration from a different story. Each one has a title and a brief caption but otherwise the only clues to the context are in the pictures themselves, providing a great stimulus for children's own creative writing.



**Topsy Turvy World** by Atak

Flying Eye Books 9781909263048

A whole world of unlikely reversals, causing questioning about what is natural and normal. Mice chase cats. A rabbit turns a gun on a hunter. A baby feeds its mother. Firefighters turn hoses full of flames on a fountain while water floods from the windows of a nearby house. A punk hands money to a suited gent begging on the side of the street.

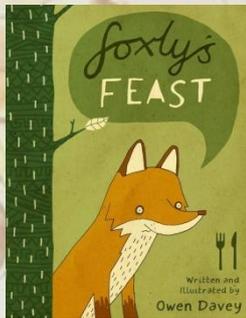


**Red Sledge** by Lita Judge

Andersen Press 9781849397933

A group of animals borrow a red sledge that a child has left propped up outside. This becomes a bright spot of colour on the snowy slopes as they joy ride under a moonlit sky. In the morning, the child (surely a cousin of Astrid Lindgren's independent youngsters) is puzzled by the animal tracks in the snow ... The only 'words' are onomatopoeic sounds made by the movement of the sledge and the animals' whoops of excitement.

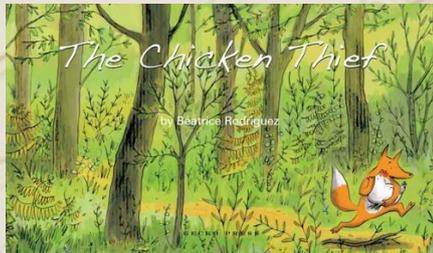




### **Foxly's Feast** by Owen Davey

*Templar 9781848771321*

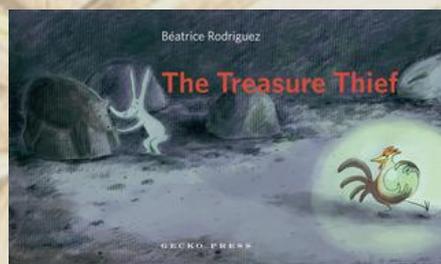
A fox is searching for his next meal, signified on successive spreads by a speech bubble enclosing a knife and fork. He appears to be contemplating various fish and fowl but the ultimate feast may not be what readers expect. Owen Davey makes very effective use of limited colour palettes – here consisting of shades of green, yellow, orange and brown.



### **The Chicken Thief** by Béatrice Rodriguez

*Gecko Press 9781877467318*

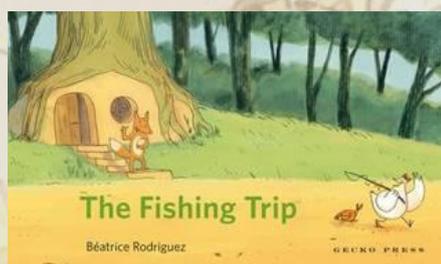
Bear and Hare are breakfasting outside their home when a fox leaps out of the trees and runs away with one of their chickens. Accompanied by Rooster, they set off in hot pursuit deeper and deeper into the forest. But is the situation as it seems? The pictures show the developing tenderness between the fox and the hen resulting in a caring cross species relationship between the pair who choose to live on a desert island.



### **The Treasure Thief** by Béatrice Rodriguez

*Gecko Press 9781877467844*

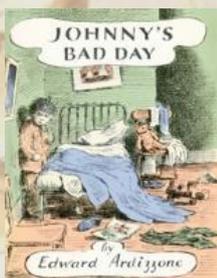
After waving farewell to Fox and Chicken, Bear, Hare and Rooster make their way home from the island. Their boat is wrecked and they are washed ashore. Rooster is first to revive and becomes obsessed by a mysterious orb. The trio make their way through a forest of glowing giant mushrooms and get carried across the water by a cloud of bats. Arriving in their own neck of the woods, Rooster discovers that the orb has unexpected contents.



### **The Fishing Trip** by Béatrice Rodriguez

*Gecko Press 9781877579240*

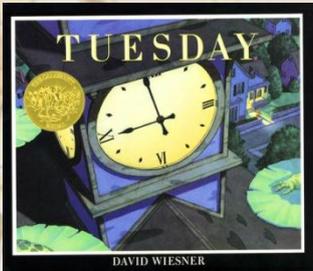
Fox and Chicken have a soon-to-hatch egg but the fridge is empty. Chicken sets off on a fishing trip to bring home food and provide for the family. She encounters many dangers from huge birds and sea monsters. Bringing home her bounty, she has doubts about whether she should have trusted her foxy companion...



### **Johnny's Bad Day** by Edward Ardizzone

*Jane Nissen Books 9781903252307*

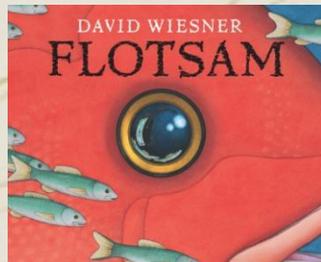
Johnny gets out of bed on the wrong side one day and we follow his exploits involving a range of incidents and emotions. Each picture is a fine vignette in Ardizzone's characteristic crosshatched style, here employing green or pink on alternate spreads in a beautifully designed small volume.



**Tuesday** by David Wiesner

*Andersen Press 9781849394475*

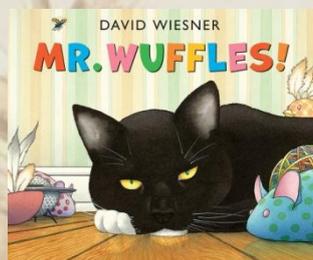
Pigs might fly but on this particular Tuesday night it's an army of frogs that fly in formation on lily pads across a community, leaving puzzlement in their wake. A great incentive to children to invent their own science fiction scenario.



**Flotsam** by David Wiesner

*Andersen Press 9781849394499*

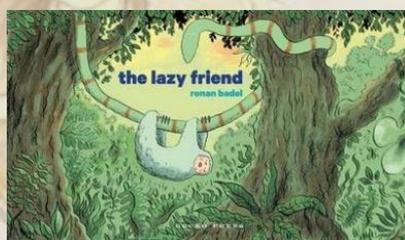
An underwater camera is washed up on a beach and picked up by a boy who takes care to examine things closely. He hastens to get the film inside developed and learns about many unexpected wonders of the deep. However, he is not the first to discover the amazing camera. Nor, it appears, will he be the last. Surreal and superb.



**Mr Wuffles!** by David Wiesner

*Andersen Press 9781783441167*

Mr Wuffles the cat has found a new toy. What could it be? Its mysterious appearance looks suspiciously like a flying saucer. And, sure enough, there are little green men inside who, judging by the artwork on their walls, may have had close encounters with his kind before.



**The Lazy Friend** by Ronan Badel

*Gecko Press 9781927271414*

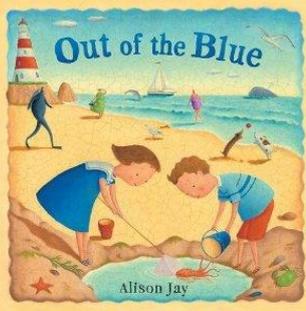
Sloths have a well known reputation for being lazy and the character at the centre of this wordless story is no exception. He clings on to his branch, eyes closed, while all sorts of dangerous things go on around him. Luckily he has some faithful friends to protect him.



**More!** by Peter Schössow

*Gecko Press 9781877467554*

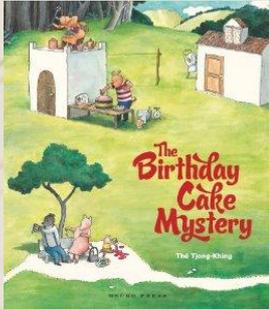
It's an extremely windy day and a man's hat is blown away. As he gives chase, he is swept into the sky and buffeted along over sea and land. What are his emotions? Scared? Excited? And how will it all end?



**Out of the Blue** by Alison Jay

*Barefoot 9781782850427*

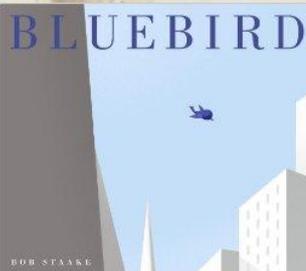
A boy living in a lighthouse explores the yellow sands, crafting objects from his beachcombing findings. Then one morning, after a wild stormy night, a strange and enormous creature is washed up in the shore. Alison Jay's distinctive crackle-glazed oil paintings glow with vibrant colours and she makes creative use of shapes to frame the details of her story.



**The Birthday Cake Mystery** by Thé Tjong-Khing

*Gecko Press 9781877579103*

Many hours could be spent following through the mini scenarios on each of the spreads in this book, exploring where they overlap and intersect and discovering the many animal characters that populate each page. There's the fellow doggedly making a cake despite some incredible interruptions. And what are those red footprints leading to a house stage right? Lots of mysteries to puzzle over!



**Bluebird** by Bob Staake

*Andersen Press 9781783441853*

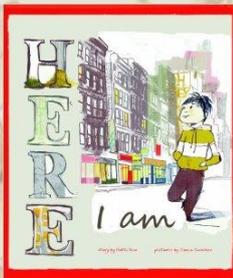
A lonely boy, bullied by his peers, is taken under the wing of a bluebird who becomes his constant companion. Set out in comic strip layout with stylised round headed figures in a geometrically regular urban landscape, a melancholy mood is created in blue, black and white and shades of grey. However, there is warmth at the heart of the relationship between boy and bird and eventually colour enters their world.



**Flood** by Alvaro F. Villa

*Curious Fox 9781782021261*

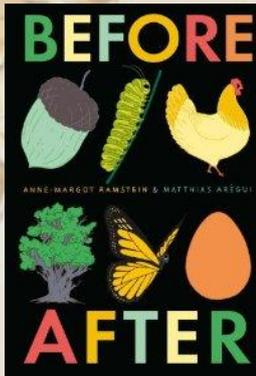
A story of human resilience in the face of environmental disaster. A family who have put much effort into constructing and caring for their isolated house have to flee in the face of a flood. But once the storm subsides, they return and rebuild their home and their lives. A reader's guide for this book can be downloaded from <http://www.curious-fox.com/products/flood-6/>



**Here I Am** by Patti Kim and Sonia Sánchez

*Curious Fox 9781782022268 (published February 2015)*

Based on the author's own experience of migrating from Korea to the USA. A young boy's experience of the initial alienation and confusion is eloquently expressed in pictures placed on pages carefully designed in terms of layout and colour. Planting a seed brought from his country leads to the nurturing of friendship and feeling at ease with his identity in his new home.



**Before After** by Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias Arégui  
Walker 9781406357936

A book full of beautiful images which evoke and extend ideas around the concept of before and after. In most cases, the pictures are on opposite pages: a hive of bees on the left, a jar of honey on the right; a rocking horse on the left, a rocking chair on the right. At other times the linked ideas are on consecutive spreads. Two people are separated by a chasm between two mountains. Turn the page and they have been united by a bridge. Some sophisticated ideas that will encourage talk, presented in a deceptively simple way.

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