

Wordless Picture Books Collection

dlr Libraries

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What are Wordless Picture Books?

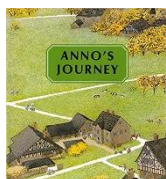
Wordless picture books, also known as silent books, are books that can be understood and enjoyed by children regardless of language.

The collection was inspired by The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) which launched the project “Silent Books, from the world to Lampedusa and back” in 2012. This was in response to the waves of refugees from Africa and the Middle East arriving in the Italian island, Lampedusa. The project involved creating the first library on Lampedusa to be used by local and immigrant children and the collection included over one hundred books from over twenty countries.

There are, to date, five collections of Silent Books (you can find more information about those on the [IBBY website](#)) and dlr Libraries has a selection of those books available to borrow from [your local branch](#) – please see this list below.

Anno, Mitsumasa: Anno's journey

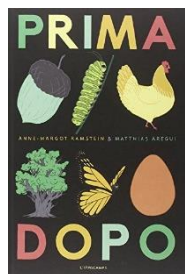
Putnam & Grosset Group, 1997; 9780698114333



Records in drawings the author's journey through northern Europe and his impressions of the land, the people at work and play, and their art, architecture, folklore, and fairy tales.

Arégui, Mattias & Ramstein, Anne-Margot: Prima dopo / Before after

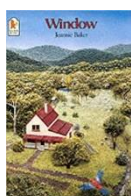
L'ippocampo, 2014, 9788867220700



Everyone knows that a tiny acorn grows into a mighty oak and a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. But in this clever, visually enchanting volume, it's also true that a cow can result in both a bottle of milk and a painting of a cow, and an ape in a jungle may become an urban King Kong. Just as day turns into night and back again, a many-tiered cake is both created and eaten down to a single piece. With simple, graphic illustrations, this beautiful rumination on the passage of time will please the most discerning adult readers, too.

Baker, Jeannie: Window

Walker, 2002, 9780744594874



Chronicles the events and changes in a young boy's life and in his environment, from babyhood to grownup, through wordless scenes observed from the window of his room.

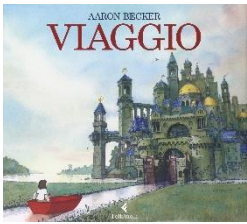
Backström, Siri Ahmed: Godnatt / Goodnight

Nill editions, 2011, 9789174374346



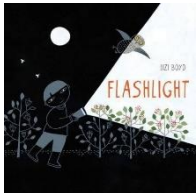
A wordless chamber play about an evening, a night and a new beginning. A book for anyone who is, or has been, somebody's child or somebody's parent.

Becker, Aaron: Viaggio / Journey
Feltrinelli, 2015, 9788807922435



A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also lead her home and to her heart's desire?

Boyd, Lizi: Flashlight
Chronicle Books, 2014, 9781452118949



In this visual account of a young boy's night-time adventures in the woods, a beam of light illuminates the secrets of a forest at night as a boy explores the woods after dark with only a trusty flashlight, revealing nocturnal affairs of woodland animals. Both lyrical and humorous, this visual poem, like the flashlight beam itself, reveals that there is magic in the darkness. We just have to look for it.

Caron, Marion & Trimardeau, Camille: Hello tomato
Éditions du livre, 2016, 9791090475175



A book-game that allows the reader to create a whimsical pocket-sized garden. Unfold the book, arrange and rearrange the die cut cards with 25 recognizable fruits and vegetables to choose from including a pink eggplant, a green cherry and even a blue lemon.

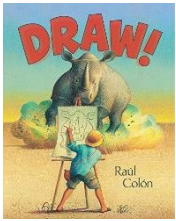
Coat, Janik: Le voyage de Loti / Loti's travel
Éditions MeMo, 2017, 9782352892243



Loti, the little dotted fish, leaves his cave to travel across the ocean. He braves all sorts of dangers to find a companion with whom he will enjoy discovering the beauty and diversity of the underwater world. This little book offers the reader a seabed adventure in shades of blue, to discover coral reefs and multicolored fishes.

Colon, Raúl: Draw

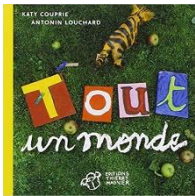
Simon & Schuster, 2014, 9781442494923



A boy named Leonardo begins to imagine and then to draw a world afar--first a rhinoceros, and then he meets some monkeys, and he always has a friendly elephant at his side. Soon he finds himself in the jungle and carried away by the sheer power of his imagination, seeing the world through his own eyes and making friends along the way.

Coupric, Katy & Louchard, Antonin: Tout un monde / A whole world

Editions Thierry Magnier, 1999, 9782844200631



An award-winning, artistic and imaginative book of mixed-media pictures that delights in the details of everyday people and things and the ways they are interconnected - witty, beautiful and profound, a book that fuels the imagination.

Cox, Paul: Au Soleil

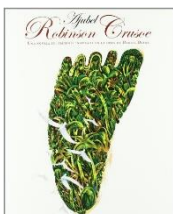
Éditions du livre, 2015; 9791090475151



Transcribes a daily solar cycle in 6 colors. Editor Fanette Mellier proposes to assess the radiation of light as color expansion: from morning blue to sunset purple, sun halos permeate the atmosphere with incandescent colors.

Defoe, Daniel & Ajubel: Robinson Crusoe

Media Vaca, 2016, 9788493598204



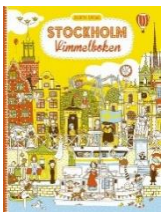
A silent book of images inspired by Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe

De Leeuw, Mattias: Circus Nacht / Circus night
Uitgeverij Lannoo nv, 2016, 9789401435628



When a little girl sees a jet-black puppy in her bedroom window, it marks the beginning of an exceptional night. The puppy turns out to be a veritable circus performer: it jumps through hoops with verve, plays the drums like a consummate musician and balances fearlessly on the curtain rod. The little girl is transported to the circus and has the time of her life there.

Drews, Judith: Stockholm - Vimmelboken
Lilla Piratförlaget, 2013, 9789187027277



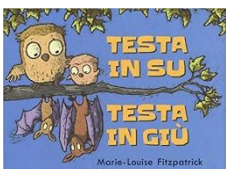
Follow over 70 characters through the capital, all with their own unique stories to tell: Known and unknown figures, animals, buildings and more to discover throughout. Where is Selma going? Who is falling in love with Greta? Will Bajen win the match?

El Turk, Rania: Beit Sitti / My grandmother's house
Hikayati Books 2016, 9789957597443



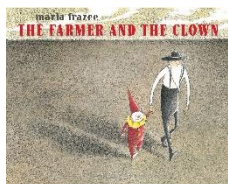
A delightfully illustrated find-the-item book that is all about the wonderful time we have when the family is gathered at grandma's house. The illustrations are packed with details, giving children and their parents plenty to talk about. The book takes you through the various rooms of grandma's house, from the living room to the kitchen and all the way to the garden.

Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise: Testa in su, testa in giù / Head up, head down!
Lapis Edizioni, 2016, 9788878744820



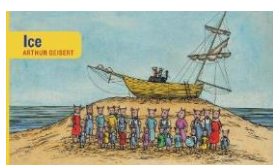
An owl is an owl, a bat is a bat. For them to become friends would obviously take more than simply sharing the same branch. However, what happens when two such clearly different families are forced to live side by side?

Frazer, Marla: [The Farmer and the clown](#)
Beach Lane Books, 2014, 9781442497443



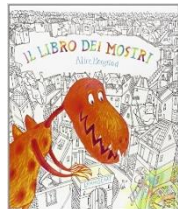
A baby clown is separated from his family when he accidentally bounces off their circus train and lands in a lonely farmer's vast, empty field. The farmer reluctantly rescues the little clown, and over the course of one day together, the two of them make some surprising discoveries about themselves - and about life.

Geistert, Arthur: [Ice / Eau Glacee](#)
Enchanted Lion Books, 2011, 9781592700981



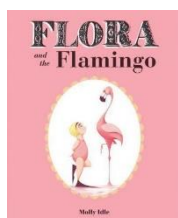
Geisert tells the story of a community of pigs that is suffering from the heat. Rather than be sapped of energy and miserable, they go on an adventure in search of ice. The pigs' inventiveness and great can-do spirit create a joyful tale of change and adventure.

Hoogstad, Alice: [Libro dei mostri / Monster book](#)
Il Castello, 2014, 9788860660404



In a town that consists entirely of black and white, a girl adds colour with her crayons by drawing monsters on the streets. The colourful monsters come alive and start disrupting the quiet little town.

Idle, Molly: [Flora and the flamingo](#)
Chronicle, 2013, 9781452110066



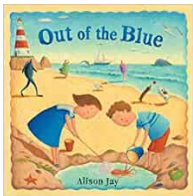
In this wordless book with lift-the-flaps, a flamingo and a girl explore the trials and joys of friendship through an elaborate synchronized dance. Beautiful and emotional, as well as funny and light-hearted, these irresistible, well-developed characters will win your heart with their performance.

Idle, Molly: Flora e il pinguino
Gallucci, 2015, 9788861457188



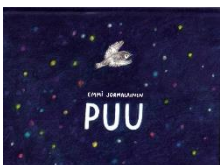
Flora takes to the ice and forms an unexpected friendship with a penguin. Twirling, leaping, spinning, and gliding, on skates and flippers, the duo mirror each other's graceful dance above and below the ice. But when Flora gives the penguin the cold shoulder, the pair must figure out a way to work together for uplifting results.

Jay, Alison: Out of the blue
Barefoot Books, 2014, 9781782850427



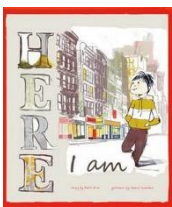
When a giant octopus entangled in fishing line is washed ashore during a big storm and becomes stranded on the beach, a young boy and girl, assisted by various sea creatures, push and pull him back to sea. Includes endnotes on marine life, lighthouses, and items that wash up on beaches.

Jormalainen, Emmi: Puu / The tree
Studio Panama, 2013, 9789529326808



A story of a tree – and birds who live in it.

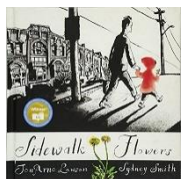
Kim, Patti: Here I am
Curious Fox, 2014, 9781782022268



Newly arrived from their faraway homeland, a boy and his family enter into the lights, noise, and traffic of a busy American city in this dazzling wordless picture book.

Lawson, JonArno & Smith, Sydney: Sidewalk flowers

Groundwood Books, 2016, 9781554984312



In this wordless picture book, a little girl collects wildflowers while her distracted father pays her little attention. Each flower becomes a gift, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter. An ode to the importance of small things, small people, and small gestures.

Le Saux, Alain: Devine

Loulou & Cie, 2014, 9782211219013



This photobook challenges readers to find the item from the right-hand page that has disappeared.

Lee, Suzy: L'onda / The wave

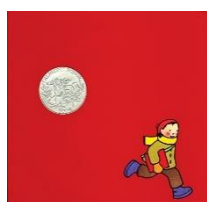
Edizioni Corraini, 2017, 9788875701468



In this evocative wordless book, internationally acclaimed artist Suzy Lee tells the story of a little girl's day at the beach.

Lehman, Barbara: The red book

Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004, 9780618428588



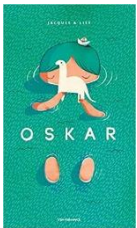
A red book is lying in the snow in the city. When you open it, you find a new kind of adventure. You will be taken across oceans and continents when you just flip the page. But this book-in-a-book holds even more secrets to discover.

Maceková, Eva: 12 Hodin s Oskarem / 12 hours with Oscar
Baobab, 2017; 9788087060582



Takes us through a regular day of a five-year old boy Oskar and his faithful tomcat. From familiar situations (breakfast, shopping) to encouraging children to try simple games, and teaching basic skills (counting, shoe-lacing, how to tell time), this retro-graphic style picture book is full of gentle humour and tiny surprises.

Maes, Jacques & Braekers, Lise: Oskar / Oscar
Van Halewyck, 2016, 9789461315359



Oskar is a very special toy dino. When Oskar suddenly disappears, his faithful friend goes straight out looking for him. This is the start of an imaginative adventure in which mountains are moved, seas are crossed, as two comrades face danger to be reunited.

Mathilde: Et après? / And then?
Voce Verso, 2015, 9791095030010



Over the seasons, the reader discovers the life of a poppy and the bounty of life under the surface of the earth: moles, earthworms, foxes and many others. A poetic and funny picture book to explore nature.

Part 1/3 of a series of silent books about nature life by M. Magnan,

Mellier, Fanette: Le Papillon imprimeur
Éditions du livre, 2016, 9791090475168



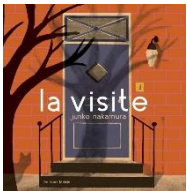
Le Papillon imprimeur reproduces a collection of butterflies and moths whose multicoloured wings create a mysterious color chart. The printing process makes each book unique, and the detachable pages allow the reader to combine the 12 butterflies and 12 moths in various ways, creating one great, colourful beating of wings.

Murayama, Junko: [Sawaru Meiro / Braille maze](#)
Shogakukan, 2013, 9784097264972



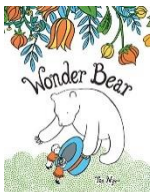
Touch the braille lines and enjoy solving the mazes in this picture book. Mazes of ten different types can be followed step-by-step from easy to difficult. An innovative maze style that can be played by all, blind, visually impaired, sighted, preschool children and adults.

Nakamura, Junko: [La Visite / The visit](#)
Editions MeMo, 2016, 9782352893004



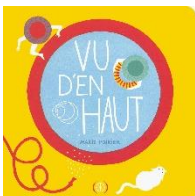
A family is at the park; a white cat slinks between the trees. Back home, the black cat looks out the window. After dark, a curious visit takes place: in the cosy, warm glow of the living room, the two cats become human size, wear human clothes, sip tea and swap news. What does that letter in the picture say? What is the white cat thinking, as it gazes out of the window?

Nyeu, Tao: [Wonder bear](#)
Templar, 2009, 9781840117691



Two children plant mysterious seeds and up grows a remarkable flowering vine, out of which emerges an even more remarkable big white bear. On his head is a hat that allows him to work all kinds of magic that day. He pulls monkey after monkey from the hat, blows bubbles in amazing shapes, and transforms flowers into spectacular floating sea creatures. The children are wide-eyed with wonder, and you will be too.

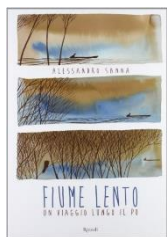
Poirier, Marie: [Vu d'en haut / Seen from above](#)
Éditions des grandes personnes, 2016, 9782361934231



An aerial view of a world drawn in circles and in vibrant bright colours.

Sanna, Alessandro: Fiume lento: / The river

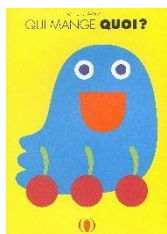
Rizzoli, 2015; 9788817066730



Consisting almost entirely of images, The River presents each of the four seasons as its own chapter and story. Beginning in autumn and ending in summer, The River is about our connection to place, as well as about the connections between geography, setting, and the stories we tell. The River is also about the flow of time, which flows like the river, and carries us.

Tamarkin, Annette: Qui mange quoi? / Who eats what?

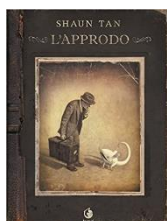
Éditions des grandes personnes, 2014, 9782361932626



In this book with paper cut shapes, go from one surprise to another by lifting the flap: a tiny rabbit next to a huge carrot, a fish swallowing a heart, a dog ready to chew its bone...

Tan, Shaun: L'Approdo / The arrival

Tunué, 2016; 9788867901883



In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family.

Tjong-Khing, Thé: Tortintavola ma la torta dov'è? / Where is the cake?

Beisler Editore s.r.l., 2011, 9788874590186



Mr. and Mrs. Dog's cake is stolen! And that's just the beginning. As they chase the thieves through a variety of landscapes, one calamitous event after another ensues. Told entirely through pictures, this book is a puzzle, a maze and an activity book.

Van Zeveren, Michel: [La Porte / The door](#)

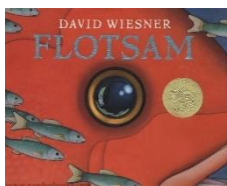
Lutin poche, 2009, 9782211095501



The little sow enters the bathroom and prepares to quietly take a shower, but her tranquillity is short-lived. Her mother occupies the bathtub with baby, her brothers use the toilet and then her father comes in to brush her teeth!

Wiesner, David: [Flotsam](#)

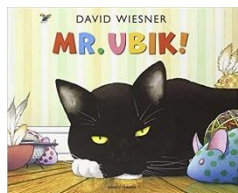
Clarion Books, 2006, 9780618194575



When a young boy discovers a camera on the beach and develops the film, he finds with his microscope many layers of pictures within the photographs.

Wiesner, David: [Mr. Ubik!](#)

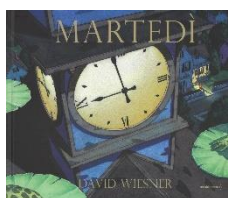
Orecchio acerbo, 2015, 9788899064013



Lying between mechanical mice and false balls of yarn, Mr Ubik is bored. Suddenly, under the radiator there's a great buzz! Nobody has noticed that the little spaceship is not a toy, or that a group of tiny aliens have descended from it. Nobody, except Mr. Ubik!

Wiesner, David: [Martedì / Tuesday](#)

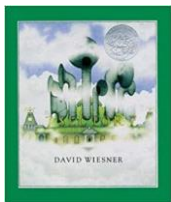
Orecchio acerbo, 2016, 9788899064457



In this ingenious and imaginative - nearly wordless - picture book, frogs in a pond lift off on their lily pads and fly to a nearby town where they zoom through a woman's living room, encounter a dog playing in his yard, and distract a bathrobe-clad citizen from his midnight snack. Who knows what will happen next Tuesday?

Wiesner, David: Sector 7

Il punto d'incontro, 2001, 9788880932819



On a school trip to the Empire State Building, a boy makes friends with a mischievous little cloud, who whisks him away to the Cloud Dispatch Center for Sector 7 (the region that includes New York City). The clouds are bored with their everyday shapes, so the boy obligingly starts to sketch some new ones. A funny, touching story about art, friendship, and the weather.

Zamboli, Giovanna: Professione Coccodrillo / Professional crocodile

Topipittori, 2017, 9788898523641



Mr. Crocodile loves his job. Every morning he gets up with an alarm. He brushes his teeth. He chooses the right tie to match his outfit, eats a quick slice of toast, and heads off to work on a crowded train. But what is his job? The answer may surprise you. Readers will want to pore over this witty, wordless book again and again, finding new details and new stories with every reading.