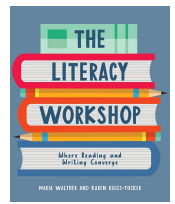
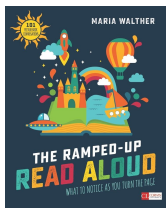


## A Few of Kids' Favorite Wordless (and Nearly Wordless) Books

[Maria Walther](#)

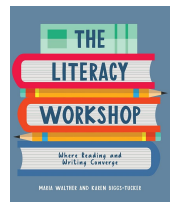


Title and Author	Brief Summary
<i>Another</i> (Robinson, 2019)	A girl follows a red-collared cat (who is following a blue-collared cat) through a portal. On the other side, she discovers another world where she meets up with another girl exactly like her. Pair with <i>Journey</i> (Becker, 2013).
<i>Bow-Wow Bugs a Bug</i> (Newgarden, 2007)	Bow-Wow follows a black bug around town.
<i>Bye, Penguin!</i> (Lee, 2020)	A young penguin travels around the world on an ice floe.
<i>Chalk</i> (Thomson, 2010)	When a group of children find a bag of magical chalk, they draw some amazing adventures.
<i>Dandelion's Dream</i> (Tanaka, 2020)	A bright, yellow dandelion imagines it is a real lion and leaves the meadow to explore. Pair with <i>Dandy</i> (Dyckman, 2019).
<i>Door</i> (Lee, 2018)	A boy finds a key and follows an unusual bug through a mysterious door. On the other side, he meets fantastical creatures, and is invited to join in a picnic, a wedding, and a celebratory meal. Notice how the boy's shirt becomes more colorful as he is welcomed and included.
<i>Explorers</i> (Cordell, 2019)	Before visiting the museum with his family, an orange-shirted boy gets a magical toy from a street salesman. During his visit, he flings the toy around until it ends up in a green-shirted child's hands. When the green-shirted child attempts to return it, the boy rudely grabs it away. Later, the boy's sister flings the toy off a second-floor balcony and the boy gets lost trying to retrieve it. The family of the child with the green shirt helps to reunite the boy with his family and they all enjoy the butterfly garden together.
<i>Draw the Line</i> (Otoshi, 2017)	Two boys are drawing separate lines. After bumping into each other, they discover that they can connect the lines and play. When their play turns a bit rough, it triggers a fight. During the conflict, the line frays and forms chasm between them. In the end, they mend the chasm and their friendship. Notice that all of the "action" occurs in the gutter of the book.
<i>Flashlight</i> (Boyd, 2014)	In this nighttime outdoor adventure, the black pages are illuminated by a flashlight beam. In the first half of the book, a child is holding the flashlight. In the second half, the flashlight ends up in the creatures' hands.
<i>Fly!</i> (Teague, 2019)	In this book about facing fears and parent encouragement, a baby bird is reluctant to take flight. The parent tries to reason with the baby in humorous speech bubbles that contain images rather than words. In the

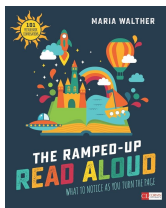


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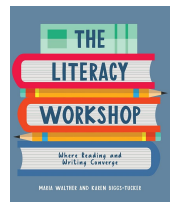


	end, the parent takes off and the bird finally gets up enough courage to follow and fly. Pair with <i>Nope! A Tale of First Flight</i> (Sheneman, 2017).
<i>Fossil</i> (Thomson, 2013)	While walking his dog on the beach, a boy discovers a plant fossil inside a rock. This discovery leads to others until his dog is riding on the back of a pterodactyl.
<i>Found</i> (Newman, 2018)	A girl who has lost her dog Prudence, sees another dog left out in the rain. She rescues the little brown dog, only to discover its name is Roscoe and it belongs to another child. Jenn returns the dog to its owner, and then adopts a new dog from an animal shelter. Pair with <i>A Dog Wearing Shoes</i> (Ko, 2015). (See <i>Ramped-Up Read Aloud</i> p. 30)
<i>Hank Finds an Egg</i> (Dudley, 2013)	After several attempts to put the egg back in the nest, Hank perseveres and, with mother bird's help, figures out a way to return the egg right before it hatches.
<i>Hike</i> (Oswald, 2020)	A child and father enjoy a day of hiking together. Oswald captures the beauty of nature along with the challenges and rewards of hiking.
<i>I Walk with Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness</i> (Kerascoët, 2018)	While walking home, Vanessa, the new girl in school, is bullied. One of her classmates witnesses the bullying and Vanessa's ensuing tears. After sharing what she saw with her friends, they all go home feeling upset. That night, the witness has an idea. The next day she, her friends, and many others <i>walk with Vanessa</i> showing the bully the power of friendship.
<i>Imagine</i> (Colón, 2018)	In this beautiful wordless picture book, Colón shares how he became interested in art. It tells the story of a young boy who passes a museum every day until one day when he decides to go in to explore the art housed there. As he does, he becomes fascinated by the beautiful artwork, so much so that the artwork comes to life. As he enters the <i>living world</i> of the pictures, he begins to understand the beauty of art, and it changes his life forever. (See <i>The Literacy Workshop</i> p. 196 for Demonstration Lesson)
<i>Lines</i> (Lee, 2017)	A lone ice skater twirls across the pages leaving lines in her wake. When she falls and skids across the page, the page transforms from a skating pond to an artist's pad. Like the fallen skater, the frustrated artist crumples up the paper. When the artist decides to try again, the paper is smoothed out, the skater is helped up by a fellow skater, and an entire winter scene appears.

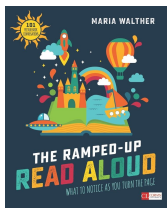


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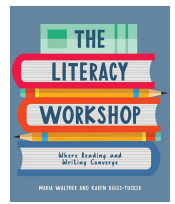


<i>Journey</i> (Becker, 2013)	With a beginning similar to the book <i>Blackout</i> (Rocco, 2011) where everyone in her family is too busy to play with her, this wordless picture book follows a girl on an imaginary journey. She uses her red crayon to draw her various modes of transportation.
<i>The Lion and the Mouse</i> (Pinkney, 2009)	Take your time as you read the pictures and discuss Pinkney's stunning wordless rendition of an Aesop's fable.
<i>Little Fox in the Forest</i> (Graegin, 2017)	See <i>Ramped-Up Read Aloud</i> page 37.
<i>Mirror</i> (Baker, 2010)	Your students will spend hours poring over Baker's signature collages and the unique design of this wordless book. See the similarities, differences, and connections between two boys' daily life, one in urban Australia and the other in rural Morocco.
<i>Mr. Wuffles</i> (Wiesner, 2013)	Mr. Wuffles, the cat, doesn't play with any of his cat toys until one day he discovers a tiny alien spaceship. After Mr. Wuffles tosses it around, the insects help the aliens repair their ship and flee.
<i>Museum Trip</i> (Lehman, 2006)	A boy on a field trip imagines himself inside the museum exhibits.
<i>Nope! A Tale of First Flight</i> (Sheneman, 2017)	In this nearly wordless book, a young bird lives with his mama in a tall, tall tree. Afraid to fly, the bird imagines all kinds of dangers below until his mother lovingly gives him the nudge he needs to fly.
<i>One Little Bag: An Amazing Journey</i> (Cole, 2020)	Based on a true story from Henry Cole's youth, this touching wordless book follows a paper bag as it is lovingly passed down through three generations. Perfect for Earth Day.
<i>Out!</i> (Chung, 2017)	See <i>Ramped-Up Read Aloud</i> page 198.
<i>Over the Shop</i> (Lawson, 2021)	A girl lives in the basement of a three-flat with her stern grandparent. On the middle floor is an aging general store that they run together and above the shop—a neglected apartment. When the grandparent tries to rent out the apartment many potential tenants aren't interested. Finally, a couple comes and nudged by the child's insistence to rent to them, the grandparent does. The couple and the girl fix up the apartment and the shop, becoming part of the family. Readers can infer from the dedication page and rainbow accessories, that one member of the couple is transgender.
<i>Peep!</i> (Luthardt, 2003)	A boy befriends a yellow duckling.
<i>Pip &amp; Pup</i> (Yelchin, 2018)	One day in the barnyard a baby chick hatches from the shell. Looking for a companion, it pecks a sleepy puppy on the nose. A chase ensues and Pip hides in its shell. Later, when a thunderstorm threatens to carry Pip away,

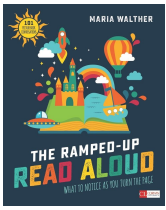


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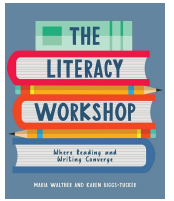


	Pup rescues the chick and the two play together. A fun story and perfect for inferring characters' emotions.
<i>Rainstorm</i> (Lehman, 2007)	A mysterious key opens a large trunk with a ladder inside where a child finds friends and fun.
<i>Sea of Dreams</i> (Nolan, 2011)	A young girl's carefully built sandcastle sits by the sea at dusk. Suddenly, a light appears in the window and a group of tiny travelers board a boat for an adventurous ride.
<i>Shadow</i> (Lee, 2010)	A cluttered attic and a little girl with a vivid imagination make this wordless picture book a visual treat.
<i>A Stone for Sascha</i> (Becker, 2018)	On the title page, a photograph of a girl and her dog, Sascha, appears. The dedication page shows the girl picking flowers as her family waits with shovel in hand. The narrative begins as the family is burying their beloved pet. After the burial, the family leaves for vacation where the action shifts to reveal the journey of a glowing mineral from deep inside the earth, through the rise and fall of civilization until it ends up in the protagonist's hands and eventually on Sascha's grave. The maps on the end papers trace the path of the glowing, yellow stone from Ethiopia in 5000 BCE to the present-day San Juan Islands.
<i>Stormy: A Story About Finding a Forever Home</i> (Guojing, 2019)	A homeless dog and a kind, patient woman develop a lasting friendship. Notice how Guojing uses light to set the tone and capture the emotions of the characters.
<i>Tuesday</i> (Wiesner, 1991)	Frogs flying on lily pads explore the neighborhood.
<i>Un-brella</i> (Franson, 2007)	A girl's magical umbrella helps to brighten a gray winter day.
<i>Wave</i> (Lee, 2008)	Enjoy a day at the beach with an energetic young girl.
<i>Wolf in the Snow</i> (Cordell, 2017)	A girl in a red-hooded coat gets lost in a snowstorm on her way home from school. Meanwhile, a wolf pup is separated from the pack. The girl bravely carries the lost pup through the storm and returns the pup to its mother. When the girl collapses from exhaustion, the wolf pack howls until the family finds her.
<i>Zero Local Next Stop: Kindness</i> (Murrow & Murrow, 2020)	A girl and her mother ride the Z train each week day. On Monday, while her mom is busy working on her laptop, the girl notices an artist with a yellow bird perched on her shoulder drawing a thank you note for the conductor. The artist's act of gratitude continues each day until Thursday, when the train is delayed and the artist is no longer there. On Friday, when



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	a major delay occurs and tempers are rising, the girl creates paper sculptures to spread kindness.
<i>Zoom</i> (Banyai, 1995)	This book shows a series of scenes, each one from farther away.

Sources: *The Literacy Workshop* (Walther & Biggs-Tucker, 2020); *The Ramped-Up Read Aloud* (Walther, 2019); *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards* (Walther, 2015), page 127; *Month-by-Month Reading Instruction for the Differentiated Classroom* (Walther & Phillips, 2012), page 55; *Month-by-Month Trait-Based Writing Instruction* (Walther & Phillips, 2009), page 63