

The Lion and the Mouse - the wordless picture book of Jerry Pinkney retells one of Aesop's best-loved fables which inspires interpretations and discussions on values and diversity

Barrier-free nature of wordless books - outside of language, culture, age.

What is the book about?

The little mouse is fleeing for its life and runs straight into the lion, but the lion chooses to let the mouse live. Later hunters capture the lion in a rope net. Now it's the mouse's turn to help the lion.

When we can use the book?



- We can use the book as a tool for discussion about what being big and strong means: **"Do you think that is the mouse able to help the lion?"**. To talk about stories in which someone small does something that helps others in a big way. The Lion and the Mouse is a fable that illustrates this concept through the actions of animals. After we read this story, we are going to come up with ideas of things young people can do to make a **difference to others.**"
- The book shows that a kind deed is never wasted - "who knows but what I may be able to do you a turn some of these days?"

Which Method we use?

Collective construction of meaning: based on meaning-making discussion and contribution from all participants. Our group will be led by facilitator calling for reflection through guiding questions. The goal is to:

- focus on co-construction of meaning;
- support children as thinkers who can consider different perspectives;
- facilitate engagement of children in an active reading process not only listeners but creative thinkers.

"Tell me approach " by Aidan Chambers

Questions that assist readers in speaking out their reading:

- What do you like..,
- What you don't like..,
- What would you like to know..,
- What it reminds you of (connections).

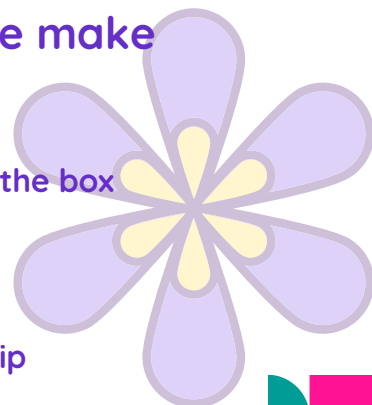


You will find 2 activities:

- A1: addressing up to 3 years old children
- A2: addressing up to 7 years old children

Which skills we make flourish?

- thinking out of the box
- creativity
- active reading
- social justice
- active citizenship



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A1: Activity - let's put it into practice applying "Tell me approach"

Structure

Duration: 30 min

To work well,
keep your group
small, max 5
children



1. Before you start, make sure that children are comfortable and relaxed. Propose to sit in a circle. If you don't know the children you are working with, start the workshop by presenting yourself and get to know the children.
2. Present the book to the children, show the cover and last page of the book and invite children to speculate about the main characters, what seem to be happening, what the book might be about. Example of questions:
 - What do you think the book is about?
 - What do you think about the cover page? is it possible to discover the topic of the book from the cover?
3. We go through the whole book together, show the illustrations and stop to hear and exchange reflections.
4. After that children are invited to share their thoughts and feelings about the book.
You can ask more detailed questions, following Arizpe & Styles "Children reading picturebook" (2015):
 - What is going through your head when you see this picture?
 - Why do you think the author decided to draw his picture in this way? Does it remind you of anything you have seen before?
 - How do you read a picture? is it difficult? how it is different from reading a text book?
 - Why do you think the author did not put any words in this book?
5. Pass the book around, give a copy of the book to each child (or child - parent copy) and invite children to browse the book by their own for several minutes in silence. In the final part of the session reflect together on:
 - What choices did the mouse make?
 - What choices did the lion make?
 - Why do you think they each chose to help one another, and what difference did their kindnesses make?
 - What is the main idea or lesson this story tells?
6. Conclude the 30 min session, this is the end of the journey with the lion and the mouse :) Ask children if they liked the workshop. How did they feel? **Thank everyone who participated in the reading.**

NOTE: The flexible structure of these sessions means that the discussion can follow the directions suggested by the children.

Each facilitator can include questions that she/he thinks will be fruitful with their particular group, according to the circumstances, time available.



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A2: Activity - create an Identikit of a good citizen

Worksheet

Copy for each student

What is your name?

How old are you?

*e.g. a good citizen helps people
in need...*



How much did you
like the activity?

