

The red thread by Tord Nygren

'Den röda tråden' ('the red thread') is an expression used in Sweden which proposes a metaphorical link that brings together a series of things and expresses the essence of an experience or an idea.

What is the book about?

A visible red thread is followed by a group of children, who leads them to surreal and strange scenes. The kids will discover an exotic world with magical gardens and a forest full of trolls. While the red thread is weaving, we meet characters from art, fairy tales, and children's literature. We see paintings by Van Gogh and Leonardo da Vinci or musicians' images such as Pablo Picasso's Stravinsky.

Addressed to 5-8 years old
children



When we can use the book?



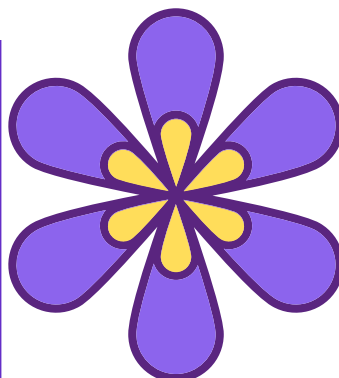
The book works as a catalyzer, where beyond the obvious identifications, there is the fascinating attraction of symbols appearing in wonderful and strange places. It works as a challenge of creating meaning, or even a narrative, from raw visual material to the imaginary spread of a small world with its own logic, rules, and dimensions.



Each reader interprets the wordless books in their way, but most possibly in this book, the red thread symbolizes the innate human need to create stories. The book is an introduction and connection to literature, art, science, and music, opening the possibility of a creative narrative.

Which skills we make flourish?

- introduction to fine arts
- fantasy
- foreseeing and solving a problem
- creative narrative



Which Method we use?

- Collective reading
- Meaning making
discussion and reflection
- Creative expression

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Activity - let's put it into practice!

Duration: 40-50 min

Visual narratives in picture books can be seen as small-scale worlds that welcome and take us through the complex dynamic of reading and interpreting cultural, natural and inner images that we see.

Structure



Collective reading

The educator/facilitator is presenting herself/himself and the book. Pages of the book are projected or physically shown to children. The facilitator makes some introductory 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?

Remember: There are no wrong or right answers :)



Meaning making discussion and reflection

We go through the whole book together and stop to hear and exchange reflections.

After reading the book we can ask more focused questions:

- Do you have a favourite hero? What are the strengths and weaknesses?
- Do you play an instrument and what kind? What kind of music you are usually playing or listen?
- Are you drawing? What colors are your favorite and what you usually like to draw?



Creative expression

Create your own red thread.

Magazines will be used in order for the kids to create their own collage/story, with topics they choose, and express their personalities in order to understand the essence of an idea or experience.



Do you know that...

The Swedish “red thread” gets its name from the ancient Greek legend of Theseus and the Minotaur.

Ariadne gave Theseus a red thread to trace his path in the Labyrinth a place where Minotaur lived.

Practical Tip

When you buy the book, you can find several versions:

- First published by: Rabën & Sjögren, Sweden, 1987;
- Presented edition: R&S Books, Sweden, 1988.

