



NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD *presents*

A Silent Books Without Words Book

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A decorative background featuring a repeating pattern of small, stylized book icons in a light brown color, scattered across the page.

A SILENT BOOK

Words and books go hand in hand to weave out a narrative, but what if a book has no words and in place of them are only pictures, signs or images? Wordless books with their evocative and meaningful sequences can tell a story just as well as words can, or even more. The reader has the ability to create their own plot and ending, limited only by their imagination.

The use of images, or narrative art, is one of the original mediums of storytelling. Ancient cave paintings suggest that humans have always told and interpreted stories through images. In today's context, picture books give the reader the freedom to make their own stories. Good wordless picture books can be enjoyable for both adults and children. The Arrival by Shaun Tan - targeted at children, also appeals to adults, due to the magnificent illustrations and the theme of migration.

As J.E.B Spredemann once said, “If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the imagination is worth a thousand pictures.” And we use our imagination with the images we experience in our everyday lives. Semiotics, the study of signs and symbols is something we use every day without noticing, even children use it. We know that a green light means go and a red light means stop, along with the difference between a toilet and an elevator sign, even though they look so similar. A wordless book makes use of our natural capacity to read signs and symbols, while creating a story out of them.

Musical scores are a kind of wordless book, as are paintings. Each note, each brushstroke can mean something different. With our eyes, we can make music, art and stories out of images with our creativity and imagination.

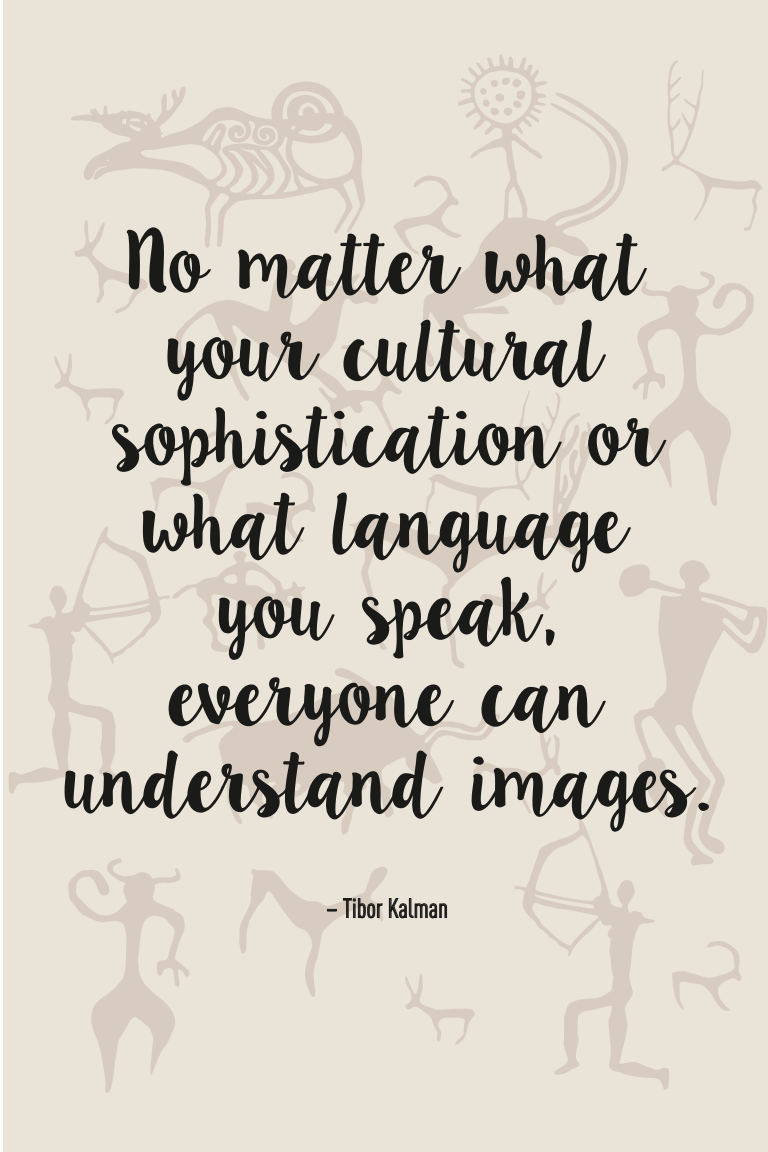


Are you able to read these series of images like a sentence?



Stop using your phone, switch it off. Go to the library, take out a book, read it and be happy.

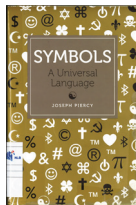




No matter what
your cultural
sophistication or
what language
you speak,
everyone can
understand images.

– Tibor Kalman

RECOMMENDED READS



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Symbols: A Universal Language
By Joseph Piercy
Michael O' Mara Books Limited, London,
United Kingdom, 2013.
Call number: English 302.2223 PIE



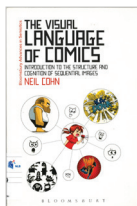
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The Arrival
By Shaun Tan
Arthur A. Levine Books, New York, USA, 2007
Call number: Junior Lending English 741.5 TAN



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Mirror
By Suzy Lee
Seven Footer Kids, New York, USA, 2010
Call number: Junior Lending English LEE



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The Visual Language of Comics: Introduction to the Structure and Cognition of Sequential Images
By Neil Cohn
Bloomsbury, London, United Kingdom, 2013.
Call number: English 302.2019 COH

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