

RAISING KIDS WHO READ — Tip Sheet #12

PICTURE THIS

Does your child love to draw? Is your child not quite comfortable with long sentences and lots of words? Maybe a picture can be worth a thousand words!

Pictures can invite a beginning reader into a book. Illustrations help a beginning reader understand the story, even if they can't yet read all the words. A "wordless" book lets a parent or child tell the story in their own way, in whatever language they choose.

How can you choose great illustrated books to share with your child? In Canada, there are several groups that give awards for the best in children's book illustration. Your librarian can suggest award winners. You might also see a seal or sticker on the book's cover.

In Canada, the *Norma Fleck Award* is given to an author and illustrator of Canadian non-fiction for children. The *Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award* is presented by the Canadian Association of Children's Librarians for the best illustrated children's book each year. The *Governor General's Award for Children's Literature* is given to books that are written or illustrated by a Canadian citizen in either French or English.

Pick a book from one of these lists. Read the paragraph about the illustrator on the book's dust cover. Take time to look at just the pictures. Ask your child what they notice.

Pick three books illustrated by the same person and one that is not. Play a guessing game. Which book is not like the others? How can you tell?

Pick a "wordless" picture book. Take turns "reading" the book to each other. Here are some suggestions. A librarian can suggest others.

Anno's Journey or *Anno's Counting Book* by Mitsumasa Anno

Round Trip or *Reflections* by Ann Jonas

Tuesday by David Weisner

Look! Look! Look! or *Look Again!* and other titles by Tana Hoban

Make it fun. Have your child pick the illustrator they would give the award to.

This tip sheet is being brought to you by the YMCA. YMCAs across Canada serve over 500,000 children in various programs. YMCA Canada is a member of the Abundant Assets Alliance, a partnership of YMCA Canada, the YMCA of the USA and Search Institute, working together to help young people obtain the 40 developmental assets that they need in order to thrive. To learn more about the developmental assets and how you can help your child build these assets, visit www.abundantassets.org.

One of the developmental assets that helps young people thrive is "Reading for Pleasure." This series of tip sheets and the resource, *Raising Kids Who Read*, created by YMCA Canada, helps adults build this asset with the young people in their lives. To download copies of any of these resources, go to http://www.ymca.ca/eng_ycdareources.htm#Res6.



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