



# The Magic Suitcase News

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## Our Website

[www.magicsuitcase.ca](http://www.magicsuitcase.ca)

## Contact Us

[info@magicsuitcase.ca](mailto:info@magicsuitcase.ca)

519-578-8849 (phone)

519-578-0540 (fax)

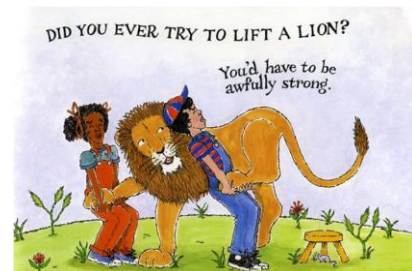
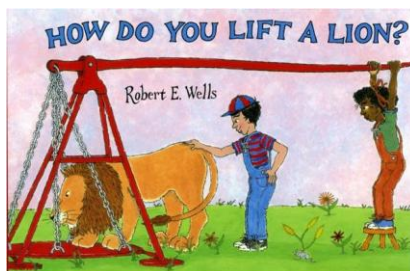
## Visual Literacy: Show and Tell

We can learn to be literate in a variety of ways and the word “literacy” itself no longer refers only to reading and interpreting text. Our curriculum requires that students become scientifically-literate, mathematically-literate, environmentally-literate, and emotionally-literate beings. With a broader notion of what it means to be “literate” we can teach children to gain information visually and thus become visually-literate beings as well. “Information literacy is more than communicating with words, because many information texts also include important visual elements, such as diagrams, graphs, maps, and tables” (Moline, 1995).

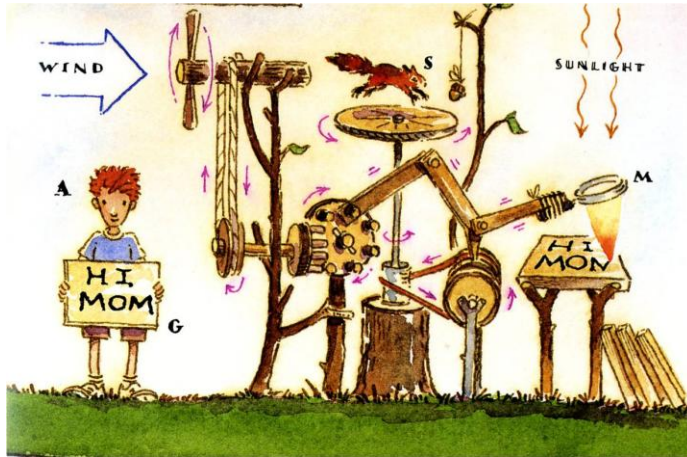
If we consider *visual literacy* as another way of reading and writing information, then we can explore strategies for teaching these skills. By ‘matching text and purpose’ we can decide the best way to **explain, report, instruct, recount** or **persuade** by using and interpreting drawings and diagrams along with text features.

Consider how illustrations in a picture book can be used to demonstrate the same features of text discussed above.

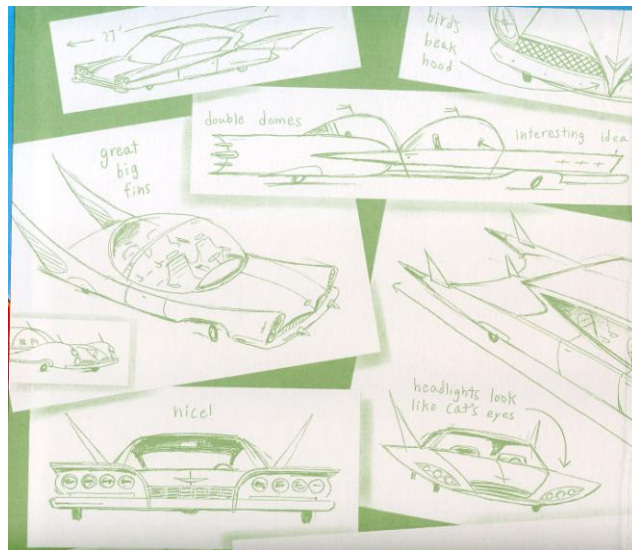
To **explain** you may draw the concept to demonstrate the idea: (*How Do You Lift a Lion?* By Robert E. Wells)



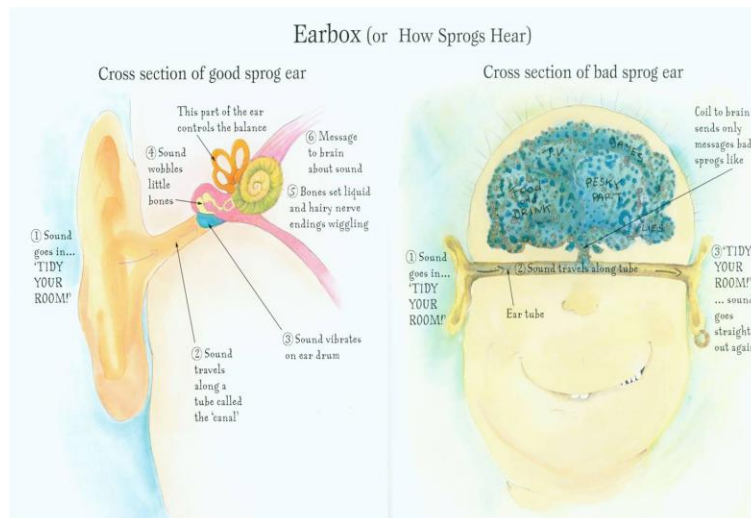
To **instruct** a flow chart may be helpful: (*Archibald Frisby* by Michael Chesworth)



To **report** use a scale diagram: (*If I Built a Car* by Chris Van Dusen)



To **recount** use a labeled diagram: (*Sprog Owner's Manual* by Babette Cole)



To **persuade** use a photograph for proof: (*The Extinct Files* by Wallace Edwards)



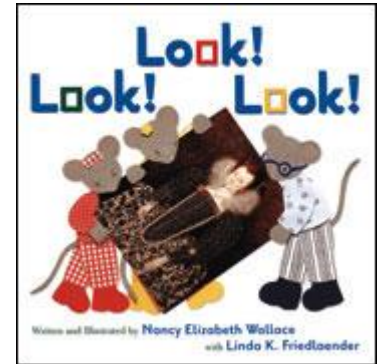
## New Books!

*Professor Aesop's The Crow and the Pitcher* written and illustrated by Stephanie Gwyn Brown



**SUMMARY:** A hot, dry desert. A tired, thirsty crow. A tall pitcher of water. Think you know the story? Think again! In her reinterpretation of Aesop's classic fable of perseverance, STEPHANIE GWYN BROWN guides readers through all six steps of the scientific method—from question to communication—with Crow as the model scientist. But it takes a strong work ethic and a series of comic attempts before he invents a way to bring the water to a life-saving drinking level. Readers are ultimately invited into Crow's laboratory where they learn much more than just a moral to the story. A hip and funny treatment of the perseverance fable. Adapted to highlight the Scientific Method!  
**PRICE: \$21.95**

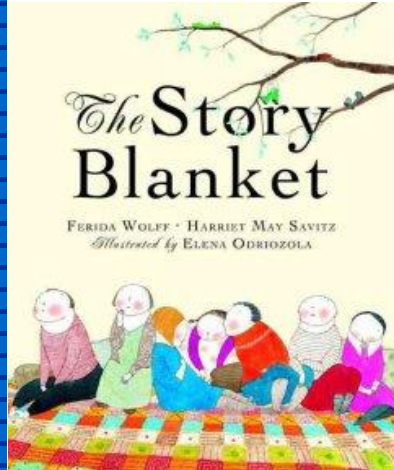
***Look! Look! Look!*** written by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace, illustrated by Linda K. Friedlaender



**SUMMARY:** Look, look, look what three tiny mice have found. A postcard with a painting entitled "Portrait of Lady Clopton" by Robert Peake on the front. They look, look, look at the painting and see that it has patterns, colors, lines, and shapes. As they keep looking and seeing, they experiment with paper, scissors, and markers, experiencing the excitement that comes with creative thinking and doing. Children will be inspired by this introduction to art and observation, illustrated with Nancy Elizabeth Wallace's signature paper-cut artwork. A glossary and postcard activity reinforces lessons learned throughout the book.

**PRICE: \$18.95**

***The Story Blanket*** written by Ferida Wolff and Harriet May Savitz, illustrated by Elena Odriozola



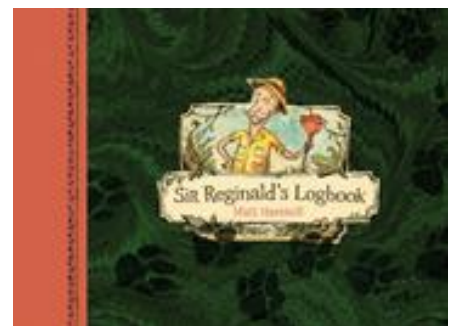
**SUMMARY:** Babba Zarrah lives in a tiny village in the snow-covered mountains. The children love to visit her. They settle down on her big, old story blanket and listen to her imaginative tales. One day Babba Zarrah notices that Nikolai needs new socks, but she has no yarn. "Every question has an answer," Babba Zarrah tells herself, "I just have to find it." After the children leave, she unravels part of her story blanket and knits him some nice warm socks. Not long after that, the postman is surprised to find a scarf wrapped around his mailbag. The grocer mysteriously receives a shawl to keep her warm. On the woodpile outside the school is a pair of mittens for the schoolmaster. Meanwhile, the story blanket is getting

smaller and smaller. When the villagers discover Babba Zarrah's secret, they decide to give her a surprise of her own.

**PRICE: \$18.95**

***Sir Reginald's Logbook*** written and illustrated by Matt Hammill

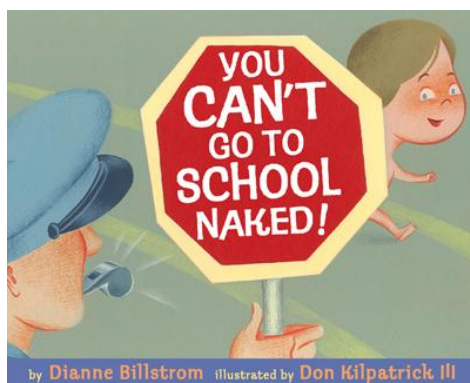
**SUMMARY:** Author-illustrator Matt Hammill has created a tongue-in-cheek adventure story where fantasy and reality merge, with hilarious results. The eponymous hero is an armchair explorer on a quest for a Lost Tablet of Illusion, stolen by an elusive beast. Sir Reginald's quest takes the reader on a journey through figments and flights of imagination on one hand, and through his mild-mannered home life on the other. Is that the deafening buzz of the carnivorous elephant beetle — or Sir Reginald's alarm clock?



Does the tiger-stripe viper lie stretched across his path — or is it a sock? What is the nature of this Lost Tablet and its awesome power? As Sir Reg veers comically between worlds, the imagination emerges as the most powerful charm of all.

**PRICE: \$17.95**

*You Can't Go to School Naked* written by Diane Billstrom, illustrated by Don Kilpatrick III



**SUMMARY:** A guaranteed crowd-pleaser! Lots of kids like to run around naked and here's a funny book to remind them why it's best to keep their clothes on, particularly at school. Just think about it—could you go down the slide? Steal second base? This little guy's parents warn him of many dangers he'd face if he went to school without clothes on, and eventually he sees their point. But if he has to wear something, it's going to be what he chooses (and it's only slightly

better than going naked).

**PRICE: \$17.50**

*How We Were* written by Teddy Jam, illustrated by Ange Zhang

**SUMMARY:** Four of Teddy Jam's best-loved stories about the men and women who lived in and transformed Canada in the last century are collected in this handsome volume illustrated by Ange Zhang. Each story recaptures a time now past and a way of life now lost but vividly remembered. Fully illustrated throughout, *How We Were* is a great first chapter book or read-aloud selection. It includes the following stories: *The Year of Fire*, *The Fishing Summer*, *The Stone Boat*, *The Kid Line*.

**PRICE: \$25.00**



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## Calendar of Events

- January 13, <sup>2009</sup> – Thames Valley District School Board ESL/ELL. London
- January 23, 2009 – Durham District School Board Library Conference, Whitby.
- January 29-30, 2009 – OLA (Ontario Library Association) Conference, Toronto
- February 12-13, 2009 – Reading for the Love Of It, Toronto
- February 26, 2009 – Reading Recovery, York Region.
- February 27, 2009 – ETFO Waterloo Region District School Board, Kitchener