

# imagination on the page

Picture books can often illustrate **abstract ideas** like dreams, memories, feelings and imagination. Often, on the same page, we can see both what is happening 'in the real world' of the story, and what the characters are thinking or imagining.

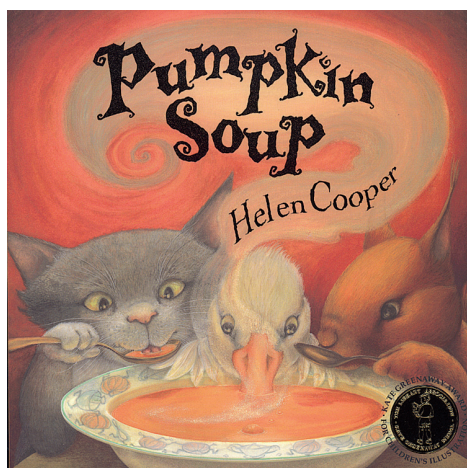
Although this is a sophisticated concept, even very young children can understand it if we talk to them about what is happening in the pictures.

## Try this:

Look together at *Pumpkin Soup*, in particular the pages where Cat and Squirrel are looking for Duck.

What is unusual about this picture? What do you think Cat and Squirrel might be worried about?

Although nothing nasty actually happens in the story, the animals' anxious thoughts about witches, bears and wolves are there in the picture to discuss.



## My Two Grannies

Look at the section where Granny Vero tells Alvina about her life in Trinidad. What do you think the images on the page might represent?

Look at the bright, sunny, tropical colours used in the picture. How do they make you feel?

## A Balloon for Grandad

Almost the whole of this story takes place in the imagination of the little boy as he listens to his father.

Discuss how the pictures we see are images in the boy's mind as Dad tells the story of the escaped balloon.

The four picture books used as examples in this project are:

- *A Balloon for Grandad* by Nigel Gray and Jane Ray (Orchard Books)
- *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell and Helen Oxenbury (Walker Books)
- *Pumpkin Soup* by Helen Cooper (Picture Corgi)
- *My Two Grannies* by Floella Benjamin and Margaret Chamberlain (Frances Lincoln)

For more recommended books, plus ideas, activities and tips for sharing picture books, visit

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