

Text and Illustrations

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“Can you please show me the pictures?” Teachers and parents across the globe can relate to hearing this plea as they share picture books with young readers. The illustrations in books are arguably just as important as the text. As your child begins building print awareness, she will undoubtedly value the relationship between the illustrations and the text.



Relationship Between the Text and Illustrations

Understanding the **logical connections** between text and illustrations is a milestone skill for Pre-K students. Vivid visual elements aid in your child’s perception and memory skills. Take facial expressions for example. Your child can use his knowledge about emotions and facial expressions to infer how a character feels about story events.

This implicit thinking is sophisticated and will lead to stronger inferential thinking skills going forward. Highlight how information from the illustrations is not always included in the text.

Activities to Support Your Child

Picture Walk

A picture walk is commonly used before reading strategy to make predictions and set the purpose for reading. At the start of each new picture book, read the title of the book and show the cover. Give your child a few minutes to browse the book, attending to the illustrations only. After looking at the illustrations, have your child predict the storyline. Confirm and adjust predictions as you progress through the book.

Guess and Check

Use small sticky notes to cover a word or two on each page of a picture book. Tell your child that you're going to play a game called guess and check. When your child encounters a word that is covered, they will have to rely on the clues from the illustration to guess the hidden word.


Cover and Reveal

This activity is like guess and check. Cover the entire text on a page. Have your child analyze that illustration to gather as much information as possible about the setting, characters, and story events. Ask your child, "What is happening in the text?" Uncover the text and compare it to your child's observations.

Kids Academy's resources featured below provide extra support by using illustrations to support understanding of texts.

Harry's Pets

Trace on the dotted lines to see what Harry says about his pets.
Then, check the correct picture of him and his pets.

I have a pet .



The  is **blue**.




I have a pet .



The  is **yellow**.



I have a pet .



The  is **green**.



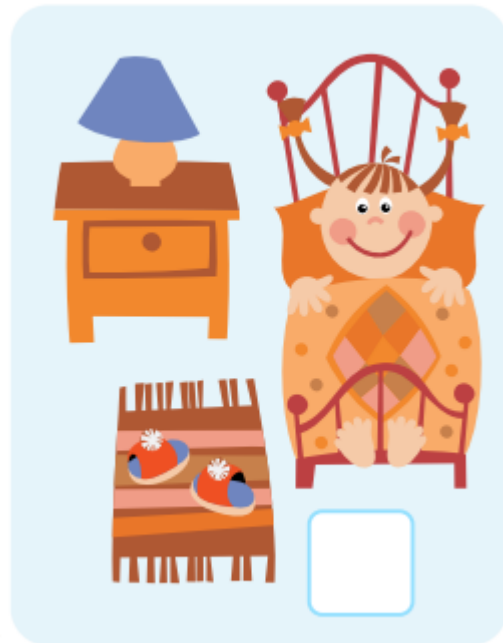
Mary's Room

Trace along the dotted lines to see what Mary says about her room. Then, check the correct picture of her in her room.

I have a
big bed.

I have a
red lamp.

I have a
spotted rug.



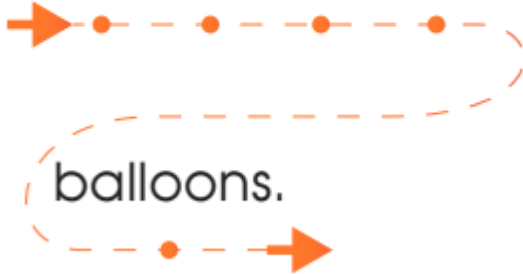
Craft and Structure of Informational Texts:

ASSESSMENT 3



Follow the dotted line to read about the girl's balloons. Then check the box next to the picture that shows the girl and her balloons.

The girl has two



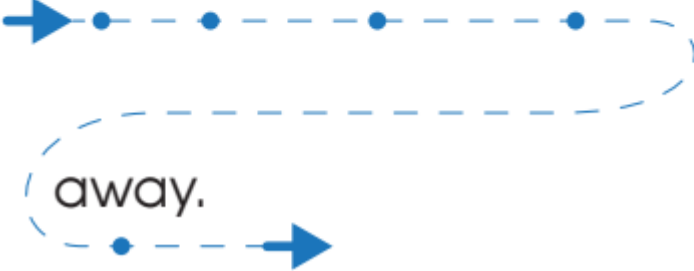
balloons.

One balloon is green.



The other balloon is red.

The red balloon floats



away.



Next Steps

Visit your local library or bookstore to hunt for picture books to read aloud to your toddler. Use the features to reinforce print awareness and develop inferential thinking. Don't forget to take advantage of the research-based resources offered through Kids Academy.

