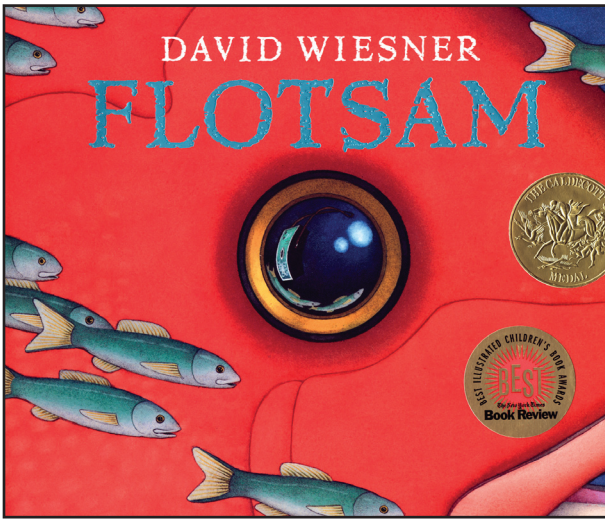


DAVID WIESNER

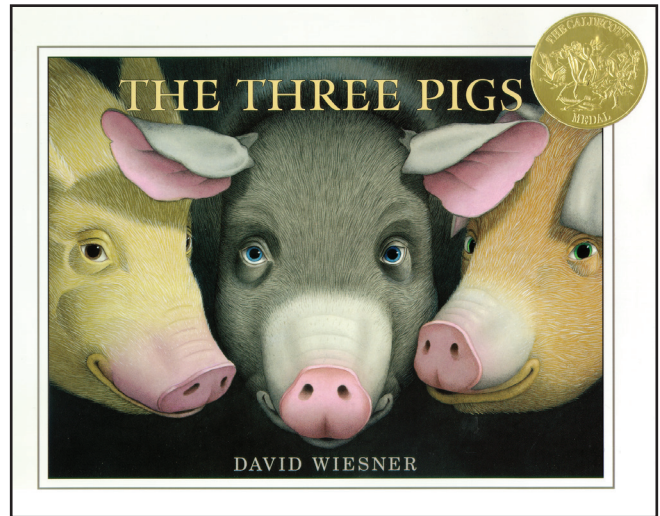
Ideas for Classroom Use

**Flotsam**

Flotsam is another almost completely wordless picture book and tells the story of a curious boy who finds an old underwater camera washed up on the beach. After getting the film developed, he is astounded to discover pictures of extraordinary events taking place below the sea—a puffer-fish hot-air balloon, an octopus lounge, a clockwork fish. He also finds a photographic record of the camera's previous finders. Delighted, the boy reloads the camera, adds his own face to the record, and tosses it back in. *Flotsam* can inspire art projects, writing activities, and even science inquiries!

Activities based on *Flotsam*:

- Ask students to envision their own fantastical versions of what really happens under the sea, using Wiesner's images as inspiration. Have them draw and/or write.
- Ask students to collect their own piece of "flotsam" and write a backstory.
- Bring in (or ask students to collect) ordinary objects from nature to observe carefully, as scientists do. They might then draw or write their observations.
- Discuss with students what we can learn from the clues in the photographic portraits of children the boy finds in the camera. Have them take photographic portraits of someone at home (using a shared disposable camera), then trade pictures and discuss what they learn about the subject from the clues in the picture.

**The Three Pigs**

We've all heard the story of the three pigs, and Wiesner's version starts in a familiar way . . . until the wolf blows the first little pig clear out of the story! The three pigs have adventures outside of their own story, jumping in and out of other tales and bringing some new friends along with them when they finally head home. Told only with Wiesner's expressive pictures and a bit of dialogue, this book offers a delightful new twist on an old story.

Activities based on *The Three Pigs*:

- Ask students to pick their own familiar fairy tale or folktale and to imagine what might happen if their characters could leave the story. Ask them to draw or write it.
- After reading *The Three Pigs* out loud, discuss with students how Wiesner's art changes as the pigs move in and out of different stories. Why did he make the choices he made?
- Ask students to study the way Wiesner draws his characters coming out of the page. Have them practice this technique, and have them try it out in the context of their own stories.
- Have students tell stories using only pictures and dialogue.