

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Wonder Walkers

Written and illustrated by
Micha Archer

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Two children head outside for a “wonder walk” and ask questions to one another that adults might not know are likely in every child’s head as they are observing, frolicking and exploring the beautiful world outside.

Genre: Picture book

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Wonder Walkers* to introduce in your classroom:

wonder	shore
cave	veins
world	Earth

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word’s meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, “That’s a word from our story!”

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Language, Literacy and Communication Item L
(*Speaking*)

Social And Emotional Development
Item D (*Emotions*)

Science and Technology
Item BB (*Observing and classifying*), Item EE (*Tools and technology*)

Reading Tips

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story “come alive.”

Let the group know that the book will be asking them important questions. Plan time to intentionally read this book as a way for the group to think about and offer ideas that begin to answer the questions. Ask the children about what the children in the story are doing, thinking and how they might feel. Write children’s responses to share and amend at further readings.

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Offer a variety and range of natural objects in children's baskets for exploration at **Small Group Time**. Provide magnifying glasses and tweezers for each child to use.

Have egg cartons and small pails for children to explore and collect items of interest at **Outside Time**.

At **Greeting Time**, have a question of the day inspired by the story. Examples could include: Where does wind come from? Why do shells wash up on the beach?

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add other relevant Imagination Library books to the **Book Area** for comparison. Include "Run Wild" by David Covell, "Owl Moon" by Jane Yolen and "The Snowy day" by Ezra Jack Keats.

Add a globe and maps to the learning environment so children can locate mountains, waterways and forests. Post photos of Indiana landscape to show the group the environmental diversity that our state offers.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Wonder Walkers*:

Where is your favorite place shown in the story? Why?

What do you wonder about?

Where do you want to go and explore?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Wonder Walkers* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you read this story with your child, invite conversation as the children in the story pose their wonders. No need to finish this book in one session. Linger on the wonders and questions and talk with your child about the possibilities as they see the world. Maybe dirt IS the world's skin? Young children do not have the knowledge yet to understand how all things work, and their perspective on the questions in the story will give every parent insight into how- at this stage of development and experiences- their young child sees the world and how it works. This perspective changes quickly as children gain knowledge and experiences, so enjoy this innocent and magical stage!