



# Beyond Words

empowering people through pictures



# Beyond Words

A collection of wordless stories about everyday life. Our materials provide a communication toolkit including:

- Print Books
- eBooks
- Mobile App



# Who is Beyond Words?

Beyond Words, a charity, publishes wordless picture stories that address a huge range of subjects such as health, relationships, bereavement, trauma and employment.

Without such resources, important conversations are often avoided for lack of confidence in how to address them.

[www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk)

# Beyond Words materials help overcome communication barriers





# Our communication toolkit supports people to



assess  
understanding



put service users in the  
driving seat



start a  
dialogue



decide



reduce anxiety



empower

## Visual literacy is...

the ability to make  
meaning from information  
presented in the form of a  
picture.



a personal opinion about  
what a picture means.

# Why Pictures?

## Even a single image offers a “blank page” for discussion

- Wordless books act as ‘story frames’ that allow readers to get past decoding to tell the stories in their own words.
- Sequential pictures enable readers to process concepts.
- Images can activate readers’ memories of similar past events and experiences.
- Illustrations also provide readers with knowledge of situations that are outside their experience.
- Words are quite linear and impose an agenda whereas a picture allows the person to scan the whole before focusing on what is most important and meaningful to them.

# How can you use Books Beyond Words?

Reading one on one...



...to open a dialogue and give people a voice



# How can you use Books Beyond Words?

Reading with a group...



...exploring and understanding different types of situations

**Let's read a picture...**



# The Layered Reading technique

This is a reading technique that:

- uses mostly open questions in a structured order to help readers to interpret a picture in a meaningful way.
- encourages deeper reflection.
- builds trust between supporter and reader and creates 'a safe space' for sharing.



# The Layered Reading Approach

- I wonder who that is?
- I wonder what he/she is called?
- I wonder what is happening?
- What is he/she doing?
- I wonder what he/she is saying?
- I wonder what he/she is thinking?
- I wonder how he/she is feeling?
- Do you feel like that?
- Has that happened to you/ your friend/ your family?

# Now apply the Layered Reading Approach...

- I wonder who that is?
- I wonder what he/she is called?
- I wonder what is happening?
- What is he/she doing?
- I wonder what he/she is saying?
- I wonder what he/she is thinking?
- I wonder how he/she is feeling?
- Do you feel like that?
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**How did  
using this  
technique  
help to read  
the picture?**



## **Exercise – reading in pairs**

One person is a Client with learning disabilities.

The other person is supporting the client while they read.

1. The Supporter holds the book.
2. Read for 5 minutes.
3. The Client holds the book.
4. Read for 5 minutes.



# How did you feel?

When the Supporter held the book?



When the Client held the book?

# Beyond Words Communication Toolkit

Offers staff, carers and supporters:

- BW Story App with all Beyond Words images and stories on their mobile device
- BW Story App with supplementary eBook library
- Training on visual literacy and layered reading techniques (online or face-to-face training)
- Print books for group and community reading



# Beyond Words Story App



Access via your tablet or mobile device to 420 short story scenarios (2-9 images per scenario) under 9 searchable categories

- Health
- Behaviour
- Healthy living
- Criminal justice
- Young people
- Abuse and trauma
- Accessing services
- Lifestyle and relationships
- Mental health and grief

Understanding, Emotions and Books  
Beyond Words: A neuroscience  
perspective

# Beyond Words eBookshelf



- Full library of all 56 Beyond Words stories in eBook format
- Accessible via the Story App interface on your tablet or mobile.

[www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk)



# Beyond Words eLearning



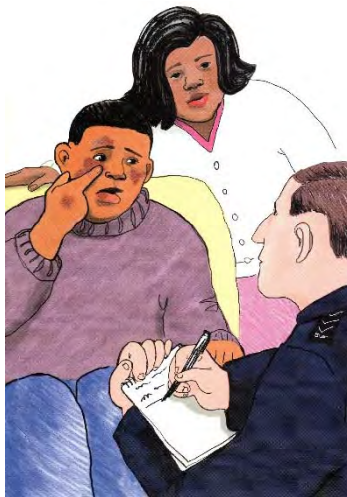
- Foundation Module including techniques for using BW wordless stories as communication tools
- Introduction to visual literacy and layered reading
- Specialist modules for healthcare and supported employment settings – *coming soon!*

[www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk)

Beyond Words: A neuroscience  
perspece

# How might you use these communication tools?

Group discussion



# Any questions?



# Thank you

