



Sidewalk Circus

Paul Fleischman , Kevin Hawkes (Illustrator)

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This delightful book will fascinate children and help them to see their world with new eyes.

-- SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL (starred review)

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Step right up and witness an astounding assemblage of tightrope walkers, strong men, sword swallowers, and clowns. The Garibaldi Circus is coming soon, but for those with clear eyes, the performers may already be in the ring. So get ready to sharpen your vision and look very closely -- a show like you've never seen is about to begin! The creators of *WESLANDIA* are back in the spotlight with a spectacular, wordless picture book that shows the transformative power of imagination.

Sidewalk Circus Details

Date : Published May 8th 2007 by Candlewick Press (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780763627959

Author : Paul Fleischman , Kevin Hawkes (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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From Reader Review Sidewalk Circus for online ebook

Jeimy says

Amazing book that reminds us that there is magic and wonder in our everyday lives.

McCall DiLorenzo says

What an entertaining book! Sidewalk Circus shows how magical kids' imaginations are. This book is colorful and flows nicely from picture to picture. It gives the opportunity for students to create their own story of the circus acts and what will happen after the pictures end.

Katie Carter says

This wordless picture book is great for intuitive readers! It allows the child to think critically and predict the story line

Alexandra Barker says

LOVED. The last of the three wordless picture books I've read. There are so many wonderful details you can catch on each reread, and so many different interpretations. Great for my students, and as an adult, so wonderful to be so immersed back into an imagination that many of us have lost by now.

Scarlett Miller says

I thought this book was great. The illustrations weren't my favorite but i loved the story. The little girl is watching as a man is saying "circus coming soon" but everywhere she looks she sees the different circus "performers" the chef is a juggler, the boy carrying flour is a weight lifter and the girl at the dentist is a sword swallower each person around the town represented a different performer so she didn't even need to see the circus it was right there in front of her.

Paige Arcuri says

1. Awards: ALA Notable Children's Books (2005)
2. Grades: Kindergarten- 3rd Grade
3. Summary: A young girl is waiting at a bus stop when she notices a poster advertising an upcoming circus.

As she looks around town, her imagination allows her to see the shadows of ordinary, working people as circus acts. The bus pulls up, ending her visit to the circus, but a brand-new performance is just about to start for those getting off the bus.

4. Review: This clever, wordless picture book suggests the importance of looking closely at everyday life. It emphasizes the joy imagination can bring to a person and forces you to look at situations from a different perspective. However, when reading the book with younger children, I think adult input is key in order for them to find and understand the meaning of the shadows.

5. Use:

- a) This book can be used as a tool to teach children about foreshadowing. As they read the book, they can predict what act they may see next.
 - b) You can use this book as a tool to practice writing. In small groups show the students the book, but do not narrate a story. Then have them write down their own story line and share it with the other students in the group.
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Ali Gregory says

This book is wordless book. This book was about a little girl who sat on the sidewalk watching the people of the town. All the people on the street had different jobs but they were all jobs that reminded her of acts that went on in a circus. She sat there and watched the baker juggle the treats she was making and there was a man carrying something on his back and he looked like one of the "strong men" that you would typically see in the circus. Wordless picture books are very interesting because you are able to look at the pictures and interpret them and take them how you want. It is really interesting to see how children look at pictures and interpret them. This book would be a fun book to read in a class.

Madison says

As a marquee rolls announcing the coming circus acts a young girl sees them all take place in the every day actions surrounding her. She sees a strong man delivering meat to the butcher, two trapeze artists washing windows, a lion tamer walking his dog, and more. Look closely to see how the shadows represent various carnival acts as the posters and marquee announce them to the city.

Mischenko says

To see this week's wordless picture books, please visit [-https://readrantrockandroll.com/2017/...](https://readrantrockandroll.com/2017/...)

This picture story begins in the city streets with regular everyday people going about their day while observing others around them. The Garibaldi Circus will soon be coming to the city, but what's really happening in the shadows might be more interesting than you think. Children will notice that our ordinary lives are more interesting than we think and all we need to do is pay attention to what's happening around us.

We enjoyed the book and ended up starting it over twice. You really have to pay attention to the shadows to

see what's going on. It's a really unique book and we loved the illustrations.

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Cheryl says

Oh too cute. I'm a fan of books that encourage readers to look at the world from a fresh perspective, whether they're toddlers' metafiction or adults' science fiction or anything in between. This comes at it from a direction I've never seen before. How wonderful to be able to see the extraordinary in the everyday, as the girl in this story does.

Do note that this resembles a wordless book because there's no narration or dialogue. But the words on the signs are very helpful and I would not share this without reading them.

Jennifer Trinker says

Sidewalk Circus was a story all about seeing the beauty in the world around oneself and noticing that there are great feats happening all around us. The acrylic paintings in the book are quite beautiful and capture the small moments of life that go unappreciated. It was an eye opening story that you don't have to pay large amounts of money to see something spectacular. Finding joy in the small things in life is a great way to live, and a good thing to teach children.

It was slightly confusing however. There is, throughout the story, a huge sign announcing the world-renowned circus. I wasn't sure if the circus was the older man putting up posters helping people notice the world around them or if it was talking about another circus that was yet to arrive. Despite this confusion, this was a wonderful story.

Holly says

I thought this book was cool. When the story first started out it just seems like it is a girl who is excited for the circus to be coming but later on you see that so much more ends up happening. I like all of the little details that happen around various areas of the page and how depending on what stands out it would change your opinion/ viewpoint of what's going on. I like that it is wordless because it gives more possibilities. I also like the bright colors that were used. Everything looks very appealing to the eyes and there's a good amount of details to help tell the story.

Anna says

Sidewalk Circus/ Paul Fleischman/ 2004

Genre: fiction, wordless

Format: picture book

Plot Summary: A young girl watches as the activities across the street from her bus stop become a circus.

Considerations: no red flags

Review Citation: School Library Journal; Jul2004, Vol. 50 Issue 7, p75-75, 1p

Selection Source: Novelist

Recommended age: 4-10

Kathy Davie says

A standalone picture book for children that will make you see things from a different perspective.

My Take

This is very clever! Fleischman and Hawkes sucker you right in with the promise of the circus coming to town...and then tease with that sly comment about the performers perhaps being here already, as they slide you into the old city neighborhood of skateboarders, window washers, guys doing construction, deliverymen, cooks...all the everyday people in the neighborhood.

Admittedly Fleischman/Hawkes have taken some liberties with those shadow thrust up against the walls, but I gotta give 'em credit for their imaginations. Even with those minor tweaks.

It's kind of a Where's Waldo for you and the kids to find the shadows and interpret them. Encourage the kids to see the differences AND the similarities. Stimulate those imaginations.

There are no words, other than shop signs, the marquee announcing the circus, and the posters the old man is pasting up. Instead, it's a visual feast to tease the mind.

The Story

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls! Step right up and witness an astounding assemblage of tightrope walkers, strong men, sword swallowers, and clowns.

The Garibaldi Circus is coming soon — but for those with clear eyes, the performers may already be in the ring. So get ready to sharpen your vision, and look very closely.

A show like you've never seen is about to begin!

The Cover and Title

I've always loved the transformative magic of shadow puppets, and this cover is a perfect example with the gigantic shadow of a top-hatted ringmaster shouting into his megaphone projected on to that huge yellow and orange brick wall...all coming from a little old man with a white mustache, a long-billed baseball cap, overalls, and a red check shirt, holding a rolled-up poster in his hand. Right next to a sidewalk cart piled with posters. With shocking indifference, three pigeons are tapping away at the pavement. The title and illustrators' names are all at the bottom in a pale yellow against the deep brown-gray of the roadway.

The title is a totally different way of looking at the life around you, the *Sidewalk Circus* that performs in every town, city, and neighborhood.

Gloria Clayton says

A theme that I saw throughout this nearly-wordless picturebook was that imagination is powerful and a gift. I think that having a younger girl seeing the city street in a playful imaginative way was a purposeful nod to the gift that children have that we as adults don't always see the magic in things around us the way they do. I think there was probably some cultural relevance to city life too.
