Around the World, One Little Clue at a Time

For shared looking, ages 2–8. Start with a large wheel, a duck or a bright color; invite older children to describe smaller details. Difficulty labels are suggestions, not a child assessment.

Look together. Let the picture lead.

Let your child choose a door, a duck, a roof or a favorite color. Follow that first small discovery together.

Open one part of the picture and choose a clue. Try three if you feel like more, or stop after one shared discovery.

Look together

Start with the whole picture. Let a child choose the first place to explore.

Find three things

Pick any three clues—or invent your own. It is fine to stop sooner.

Describe one

Use a color, shape or place word without pointing. Let someone else look.

Imagine what comes next

Choose a tiny moment and tell, draw or act out one gentle next chapter.

A few gentle invitations

What helped you spot it?

Grown-up cue: Name something visible: a shape, a color, a nearby object or an action.

Can you help me find it without pointing?

Grown-up cue: Try place words such as beside the landing, under the roof or above the window. A gesture or drawing can help too.

Which detail would you keep in a photo album?

Grown-up cue: Invite a personal choice and a reason. Wonder together about the photograph Nico and Sofia might take next.

Offer a choice between two places, share control of the zoom or search as a team. Welcome pointing, signing, drawing and home-language responses. Nico and Sofia appear more than once as different remembered moments; each clue names one pictured scene.

Choose a detail to draw or tell someone about. The rest of the picture will be there for another day.

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A shared classroom adventure

15 flexible minutes

Purpose

Practice close observation, color and pattern description, positional language and explaining which visible detail supports an answer.

Bring

A screen with the panorama or a printed picture; Optional picture clues; Paper and pencils

1. Choose a place to look

Notice the different buildings and waterways. Explain that this picture gathers five separate book destinations into an imagined landscape.

2. Find, describe and count

Choose one find clue, one color or pattern clue and the bounded group of ducks. Let partners look together and describe how they decided.

3. Give a picture clue

Invite children to guide a partner with shape, color and place words. Pointing, signing or drawing are welcome alternatives.

4. Make a memory

Read a related book or revisit one scene. Each child chooses a detail for an imaginary photo album and tells, draws or acts out a short next moment.

Make room for every child

Offer large, high-contrast targets first, make small-object clues optional and let a partner operate the zoom. Accept spoken, signed, drawn and home-language responses; sharing one observation is enough.

Pause and reflect

Which details could everyone see in the picture? Which part of your photo-album story did you imagine?

Words to try

canal: a waterway made by people

reflection: an image seen in water or another shiny surface

pattern: shapes or colors arranged in a repeated design

fringe: loose threads along the edge of cloth

clue: a detail that helps you work something out

Keep the story going

Choose one of Nico and Sofia's five books, then return to find familiar buildings, objects and ways of looking. The panorama brings their travel memories together in an imaginary arrangement; the five real places are not next-door neighbors.

Nico and Sofia in Chefchaouen - Follow blue lanes, old doors and a rippling cloth as Nico chooses a favorite photograph of Sofia.

Nico and Sofia in Alberobello - Look closely at cone-shaped roofs, small stone roof-tops and little windows, then save a picture in the memory pouch.

Nico and Sofia in Giethoorn - Follow canal paths and wooden bridges, then wait with the siblings while ducks ripple a reflection.

Nico and Sofia in Hallstatt - Explore a map, a museum window and a lake reflection with Nico and Sofia.

Nico and Sofia in Shirakawa-go - Walk beside rice fields, notice steep thatched roofs and discover the story of silkworms inside a timber viewing room.

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