A Thousand Clues Before Time

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

Look together. Let the picture lead.

Let your child choose a dinosaur, a color or a cozy corner to explore. There is no need to search the whole picture.

Look at the valley together, then zoom into one small scene. Choose any three clues, or stop after a single 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 do you notice before you make a guess?

Grown-up cue: Name a visible color, shape or action. Then wonder what the friends might be doing.

How could you help me find it without pointing?

Grown-up cue: Try a place word: beside the book, above the water or behind the log.

What might Rae draw for their next adventure?

Grown-up cue: Look inside the attic opening. Let your child choose a place, a friendly dinosaur or an object to draw or describe.

Choose between two places, search together, or let a partner operate the zoom. Welcome pointing, signing, drawing and home-language responses. Characters and watches appear more than once; each clue describes one pictured moment.

Choose one detail to draw or tell someone about. Finding everything is optional.

A shared classroom adventure

15 flexible minutes

Purpose

Practice close observation, positional language and explaining which visible detail supports an idea.

Bring

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

1. Look together

Notice the water, forest paths and story moments. Invite one visible detail from each child.

2. Find three things

Choose a dinosaur, a small object and a color clue. Search together or in pairs.

3. Describe one without pointing

Use shape, color and place words to guide a partner. Gestures or a drawing can give the clue too.

4. Invent what happens next

Choose the attic or a valley scene. Tell, draw or act out one gentle next adventure for Kai and Rae.

Make room for every child

Begin with large figures, offer small clues as optional challenges and share control of the zoom. Accept spoken, signed, drawn and home-language responses.

Pause and reflect

Which visible detail helped you find the clue? Which idea did you invent afterward?

Words to try

observe: look or listen carefully

beside: next to something

clue: a detail that can help you work something out

Keep the story going

Meet Kai and Rae in Dinosaur Rescue, then return to the picture to find familiar friends and objects. The panorama gathers several story moments into one place to explore.

Dinosaur Rescue - Follow Kai and Rae as they help a baby triceratops and investigate a time glitch.

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