

## Glasgow University Team News and Publications

[www.ukla.org/site/research/research\\_projects\\_in\\_progress/visual\\_journeys/](http://www.ukla.org/site/research/research_projects_in_progress/visual_journeys/) and [www.gla.ac.uk/media/media\\_144829\\_en.pdf](http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_144829_en.pdf)

‘Pupils pioneer a wordless method of learning English as additional language’ *The Glasgow Herald* (21 Sept 2009)

‘How every picture tells a new story’ *The Evening Times* (Glasgow, 21 Sept. 2009)

‘Charting new territory and breaking down barriers with picture books’ *TESS* (24 Sept. 2010)

Farrell, M., Arizpe, E. & McAdam, J. (2010) ‘Journeys across visual borders with *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan: Annotated spreads as a method for understanding pupil’s creation of meaning through visual images’, *Australian Journal of Language and Literacy* 33 (3).

Arizpe, E. ‘Minority Voices Create Words for Wordless Picturebooks’. (2010) 32<sup>nd</sup> IBBY Congress, online.

Arizpe, E. & McAdam, J. (2011) Crossing Visual Borders and Connecting Cultures: Children’s responses to the photographic theme in David Wiesner’s *Flotsam*, *New Review of Children’s Literature and Librarianship* 17 (2).

McAdam, J. & Arizpe, E. (2011) Journeys into Culturally Responsive Teaching *Journal of Teacher Education and Teachers’ Work*, 2, forthcoming,

**Presentations & workshops** at various national and international conferences and exhibition during Refugee Week, Hillhead Library, Glasgow, 2011.

### An evaluation follow-up of this project is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

(2011-2012): *Journeys from Images to Words: Examining the efficacy of visual meaning-making strategies in the development of inclusive communities of critical readers*

### Project Partners

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
Grupo GRETEL: Dr Teresa Colomer

Australian Catholic University  
Dr Maureen Walsh, Maya Cranitch,  
Dr Karen Maras

Teachers College, Columbia University  
Dr Carmen Martínez-Roldán

### Project partners’ publications

Fittipaldi, M. (2008) *Travesías Textuales: Inmigración y Lectura de Imágenes*. MA thesis. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Martínez-Roldán, C. and Newcomer, S. (2011) ‘Reading between the pictures: Immigrant students’ interpretations of *The Arrival*’, in *Language Arts* 88 (3).

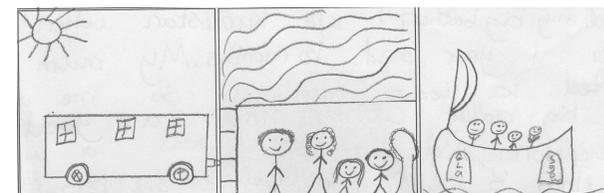
**Papers based on the project** will be presented at the International Symposium, ‘La literatura que acoge: infancia, inmigración y lectura’, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, November 2011.



UKLA

# Visual Journeys

*Exploring children’s visual literacy through intercultural responses to wordless picturebooks*



## An international research project

‘The children interpret what they see and tell the story using their own words. By doing so, they gain the confidence to contribute, adding their feelings and life experiences.’ Hagos Sinkie, EAL teacher

## **The Visual Journeys Project is based at The University of Glasgow**

Dr Evelyn Arizpe (Principal Investigator)  
Dr Maureen Farrell  
Ms Julie McAdam

Funded by grants from  
Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow  
&  
United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA)

### **About the Visual Journeys Project**

This international project, which began in 2008, is being conducted simultaneously in four different countries: Scotland, Spain, Australia and the USA. It examines immigrant, EAL children's visual literacy and intercultural responses to wordless picturebooks on the topics of migration and journeys. Although visual skills are an important resource for migrant children, they are used to develop other literacy skills. Research on response to picturebooks has revealed how pupils can develop their literacy skills and grasp deeper layers of meaning through careful looking, story-telling and interactive discussion (Arizpe E. and Styles, M. 2003 *Children Reading Pictures*, London: Routledge). This project explores how the visual image can become a tool for transfiguring new educational and cultural contexts.

### **Picturebooks used in the study:**

Tan, Shaun. (2006) *The Arrival*. Sydney, NSW: Hodder Children's Books.  
Wiesner, David. (2006) *Flotsam*. New York: Clarion.

## **Project Strategies**

\*Walkthroughs of the book followed by discussion in pairs or small groups about the literary and visual analysis of the chosen books (from the cover and endpapers, to the author's intentions and predictions about the text)

\* Annotation of selected images from texts which gave children the opportunity to look more closely at particular images they were interested in and to make comment through writing or text marking

\*The use of photographs: children invited to photograph objects/events important to them and present these pictures to the group for discussion

\*The use of graphic formats, as used in the texts, to depict a journey the child has been on. Children then invited to talk about the content and design features.

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For more information on the international project or for consultancy or CPD in the UK, please contact

Dr Evelyn Arizpe  
School of Education  
University of Glasgow  
St. Andrew's Building  
11 Eldon St. Glasgow G3 6NH  
**Evelyn.Arizpe@glasgow.ac.uk**

## **Research Finding (in progress)**

Findings relate to both language and literacy development:

\*The children's vocabulary and use of language showed significant development as a direct result of working with the books.

\*The picturebooks provided an attractive stimulus for talking, prompting even the quiet ones to say something and relate events to what they themselves have experienced.

\*The wordless nature of the books reduced the fear factor of reading books which demand a certain level of English to fully comprehend the key idea.

\*The multilayered images encouraged the children to look for meaning in books and look critically – and to appreciate art for its own sake.

\*All of the children were able to make sophisticated analysis of the narrative as well as the author's intentions.

\*Initially, the children did not possess a vocabulary to discuss the design features of the texts, however with ongoing discussion and the use of questions about design the children began to encompass terms about colour and layout into their responses.

\*The children made use of their past lives and experiences of migration to interpret the texts, they also made frequent use of their home literacy practices citing examples from books read in their own language/s, movies, television and the Internet.

\*There was an increased awareness of language diversity, personal and cross-cultural connections.