Lesson 1: Everyday Signs

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Amy.

My friend and I love to go on nature walks together. As we walk, we stop and look closely at any interesting plants and animals we see.

We both bring our journals with us. My friend writes notes as we go. If we see an interesting leaf like this one, she writes that down. If we see a red cardinal, she writes that down.

I draw pictures. If we see a cool leaf, I draw a picture of it. If we see a red cardinal, I draw a picture of it.

I draw because drawing is fun, but also because it helps me remember and share information. If I want to remember what that cool leaf looked like on my nature walk, I can check my drawing. If I want to show someone what birds I saw, I can show them my drawing.

My friend does the same thing with the notes that she writes.

Drawing and writing are just two different ways of doing the same thing.

This isn't only true in the drawings I draw, either. In my favorite picture books, for example, the words tell a story, but the pictures tell a story, too. Even if you can't read a picture book, you can learn a lot about the story by looking at the pictures.

Or check these out: these are road signs. Some of these signs have words that give instructions or warnings, like this sign that has the word "stop" on it. This tells drivers to stop.

Many signs have pictures that give instructions or warnings, too. Like, take a look at this one: this sign has wavy lines for waves and a stick figure that looks like he's swimming. This is a sign for a swimming area. This lets people know that there's a place to swim nearby.

We have pictures all around us in lots of different forms. Road signs like these, store signs, cartoons, books, and more.

In fact, you find pictures in many of the same places that you find words. And like words, many of these pictures are made to share information.

In today's lesson, let's try out our picture skills.

Can you help me get through my day using the information in the pictures I see?

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Good morning! It's time for breakfast. I want some orange juice. I open my fridge. There are two bottles of juice inside. Which bottle should I pick if I want orange juice?

If you think I should pick this bottle, point this way. If you think I should pick that bottle, point that way.

When everyone's pointing, click the arrow to go to the next step.

STEP 2

The picture of an orange on this bottle lets me know this one is orange juice. The other bottle has an apple on it. That's not orange juice.

If I turn the bottles around, I see there's printed words on these bottles, too. This one says "Orange Juice," and this one says "Apple Juice." Great, the picture matches the words.

Everybody, take a big drink of orange juice, like this, then go to the next step.

STEP 3

After breakfast, I decide to go to the beach for a swim. I put on my swimsuit and swim goggles, grab my towel, throw on a sun hat, and head out.

Down the road, I see a signpost with pictures and words. Each picture is pointing in a different direction.

Point to the direction I should go if I want to get to the beach.

STEP 4

This is a picture of pine trees, and this is a picture of tall buildings. None of those things seem like the beach to me, but this picture has water, sand, and a beach umbrella on it. That must be the way to the beach.

When I got a little closer to the sign, I saw that the words say "Forest," "City," "Beach."

So, we're right. This way to the beach.

Everyone walk with me to the beach by moving your arms like this. Then go to the next step.

STEP 5

When I get to the beach, I see these two signs. What's going on? I wonder what these signs mean. Give me a thumbs up or a thumbs down to vote. Do you think I should swim in the water here today?

Then discuss with your class: What do you think these signs mean?

STEP 6

This sign is a picture of a shark, and this one is a picture of a swimmer crossed out.

A little further down the beach, there's another sign with words that say, "shark sighting here, beach closed today."

Yikes! You were right. No swimming here today. Help me pack up my beach equipment.

Take your swim goggles off, throw your towel over your shoulder, put your sun hat back on, and let's walk back to the city. Go to the next step.

STEP 7

If I can't go swimming, I'm at least going to buy some ice cream. I walk in the city to my favorite ice cream shop. Here's the menu of flavors. You get to pick what flavors I get. I'm going to get three scoops. So, three different flavors.

There's just one thing. I'm allergic to bananas, so I can't get any flavor that has bananas in it.

Raise your hand if you have an idea for what flavor I should get. Remember, the flavor has to be on the menu and it can't have bananas in it.

Teacher: Call on three people to share what flavors I should get.

Everyone else: After each person picks a flavor that will work, scoop up some ice cream for my cone, like this.

STEP 8

Great! Three scoops of delicious ice cream and no bananas. In addition to the pictures that show what's in each flavor, the menu also has fun names for these flavors. Like this one says, "Going Bananas," Uh-oh. Can't have that one. And this one says, "Chocolate Chocolate Chunk." Yum. Time to eat my ice cream.

Eat your own delicious bowl of ice cream too, like this.

Then go to the next step.

STEP 9

As I leave the ice cream shop, I spot my friend Tina sitting on a bench with her sketchbook. Tina's an artist. "Hey, Tina," I say. "What are you drawing today?"

Tina says, "Hey, Amy. Want to take a look?" I go over to look at what she's drawing. On the top of the page, she's written a title. It says, "my pets." And here's what the picture looks like.

Use the picture to help answer this question: How many pets does Tina have?

Once you've counted them all, hold up a number in the air with your fingers.

STEP 10

I see one dog in this picture. Let's pant like a dog, like this.

I see one cat. Pet the cat gently, like this.

I see one bird. Flap your wings like a bird, like this.

And I see one goldfish swim through the water like a goldfish, like this.

Altogether, that's one, two, three, four pets. Tina has four pets. So I tell Tina, "Awesome picture. Say hi to all four of your pets for me." Tina smiles and says, "I will."

Great work! Go to the next step.

STEP 11

Now, it's time for me to go home. When I get to the crosswalk to cross the street, I see this sign flashing. Should I cross the street yet?

Give me a thumbs up or a thumbs down.

STEP 12

Okay, I won't walk yet. The sign has a big flat hand, like someone going, wait. Actually, the words under the picture say, "don't walk." Let's wait for the sign to change.

When I can start walking, go like this.

WRAP UP

Wow, what a journey! By looking at pictures for information, you got me to the beach, kept me from getting in trouble with a shark, bought me ice cream, got me home safely, and more. Thank you.

Each of the pictures that we saw shared important information, and that wasn't an accident.

The picture of the orange on the orange juice box wasn't just there for decoration. The orange juice company put it there to help people know what's inside.

The signs we saw at the beach were put up specifically to warn people—to let them know to stay away from the beach.

Every picture we saw was put there for a reason, because the people who made the picture had a message they wanted people to know, and the picture always matched the message.

Imagine what would happen if these pictures didn't match the message. Like, imagine if the ice cream store had a sign that had a picture of a hamburger on it. We'd have no idea that place sells ice cream.

Imagine if the sign at the beach had been a picture of a balloon. We would have no idea there were sharks in the water. When you use pictures to share a message, the picture has to match the message.

We can help people understand the meaning of our pictures even better by labeling them with words. Many of the signs we saw had both pictures and words to make their meaning super clear.

Give it a try. See how much you can share.

Thanks for all your help. See you next time, writers.