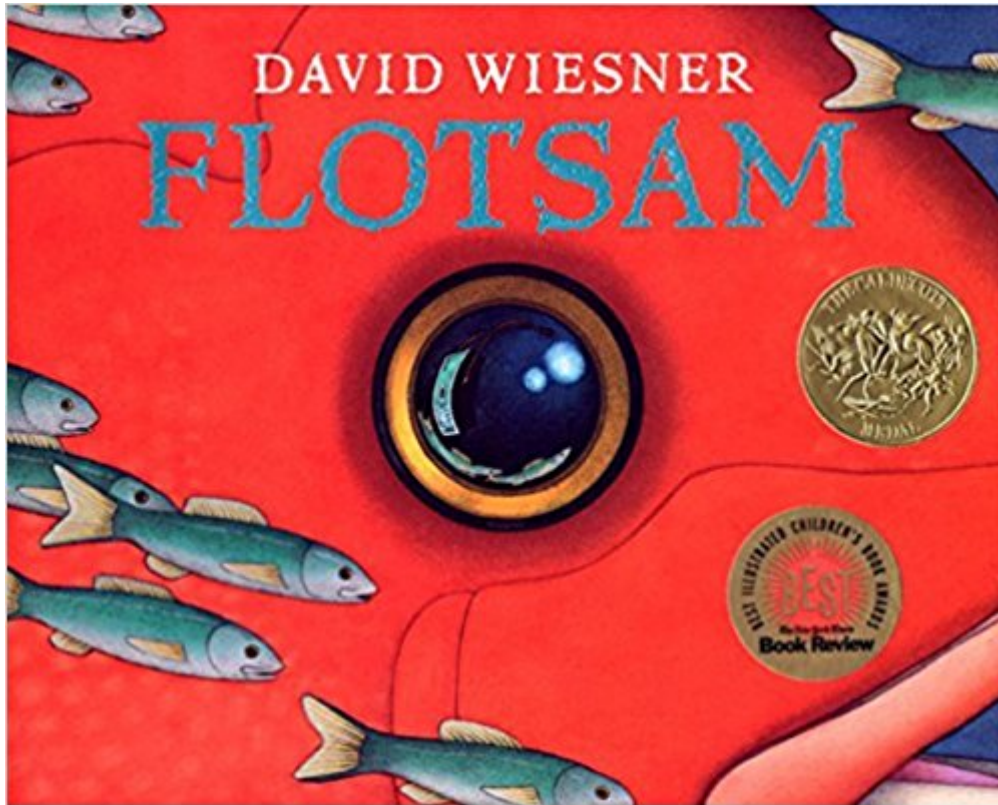




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# Flotsam



## Synopsis

A bright, science-minded boy goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam--anything floating that has been washed ashore. Bottles, lost toys, small objects of every description are among his usual finds. But there's no way he could have prepared for one particular discovery: a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share . . . and to keep. In each of his amazing picture books, David Wiesner has revealed the magical possibilities of some ordinary thing or happening--a frog on a lily pad, a trip to the Empire State Building, a well-known nursery tale. This time, a day at the beach is the springboard into a wildly imaginative exploration of the mysteries of the deep, and of the qualities that enable us to witness these wonders and delight in them.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books (September 4, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618194576

ISBN-13: 978-0618194575

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 269 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,214 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Children's Books](#) > [Animals > Marine Life](#) #75 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature](#) #196 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

**Product Description** A bright, science-minded boy goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam--anything floating that has been washed ashore. Bottles, lost toys, small objects of every description are among his usual finds. But there's no way he could have prepared for one particular discovery: a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share . . . and to keep. In each of his amazing picture books, David Wiesner has revealed the magical possibilities of some ordinary thing or happening--a frog on a lily pad, a trip to the Empire State Building, a well-known nursery tale. This time, a day at the beach is the springboard into a wildly imaginative

exploration of the mysteries of the deep, and of the qualities that enable us to witness these wonders and delight in them.    A Look Inside Flotsam (Click on Images to Enlarge)

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 4    A wave deposits an old-fashioned contraption at the feet of an inquisitive young beachcomber. Its a Melville underwater camera, and the excited boy quickly develops the film he finds inside. The photos are amazing: a windup fish, with intricate gears and screwed-on panels, appears in a school with its living counterparts; a fully inflated puffer, outfitted as a hot-air balloon, sails above the water; miniature green aliens kowtow to dour-faced sea horses; and more. The last print depicts a girl, holding a photo of a boy, and so on. As the images become smaller, the protagonist views them through his magnifying glass and then his microscope. The chain of children continues back through time, ending with a sepia image of a turn-of-the-20th-century boy waving from a beach. After photographing himself holding the print, the youngster tosses the camera back into the ocean, where it makes its way to its next recipient. This wordless books vivid watercolor paintings have a crisp realism that anchors the elements of fantasy. Shifting perspectives, from close-ups to landscape views, and a layout incorporating broad spreads and boxed sequences, add drama and motion to the storytelling and echo the photographic theme. Filled with inventive details and delightful twists, each snapshot is a tale waiting to be told. Pair this visual adventure with Wiesners other works, Chris Van Allsburgs titles, or Barbara Lehmans The Red Book (Houghton, 2004) for a mind-bending journey of imagination.    Joy Fleishhacker, School Library Journal Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Very cute however I didn't realize there were no words in this lol. It's only a picture book.

Nothing says more than a wordless picture book, and this is among the best! Wiesner, the author/illustrator of "Tuesday", creates a never-ending story at the beach.

I bought this for myself, not a child. I love Wiesner's story-telling art.

Creative and inspiring. Encourages children (and adults) to create the story. The illustrations are fantastic!!!

David Wiesner's illustrations and visual storytelling are completely original, and both clever and

wise. I've been using this book to teach 2nd graders how to write a story because visually it contains everything you need to know to write well. The author's ability to tell a complex story without words is quite amazing. The illustrations are gorgeous. It's a very curious tale too, and the story becomes a process of discovery for both reader and the boy who is our visual "narrator." I'd recommend this book for anyone from about age 7 up through elderly. It's great!

I had never heard of this author until my grandson received the book earlier this year. I was astonished by the quality of the pictures, and enjoying the story until we turned the page to look at the photographs from the camera! Then my mind was blown! This book is astonishing. The imaginative details captivated me and my grandson. No words, great art. A real winner. On a side note, LOL, I had to explain "film" and the one-hour developing store.

Beautiful artwork that explains the story without words. Not sure my 7 year old granddaughter was all that pleased having to apply her imagination, however. Maybe she's still too young or maybe other books and media haven't helped to develop her imagination. Regardless, I would recommend this book.

This will be a Christmas present for a 3-year old who is at his happiest when he is lying on his belly and examining sea creatures in tidal pools. This book, about just such a boy, seems like a perfect match. The pictures are fanciful and play with the concepts of time and space. Since there are no words, the adult "reader" and child can add as much or as little as they wish. There are always new bits of the pictures to notice. The 3-year-old loves "Mr. Wuffles" by the same author, and if this new book is read nearly as often, the book will be a very good investment.

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