



# Umbrella

*Taro Yashima*

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## **Umbrella** Taro Yashima

Momo can't wait to use the red boots and umbrella she received on her birthday. All she needs now is a rainy day! Soft illustrations portray a thoughtful story about patience and growing independence.

### **Umbrella Details**

Date : Published August 25th 1977 by Puffin Books (first published January 1st 1958)

ISBN : 9780140502404

Author : Taro Yashima

Format : Paperback 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books

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## From Reader Review Umbrella for online ebook

### Cassandra Gelvin says

#### **The umbrella is the last component of the ghastly ritual.**

This book is extremely wordy for the brief amount of story that it actually tells. There's a little girl. She lives in New York. Her parents are Japanese immigrants. For her third birthday, she gets rubber boots and an umbrella. She wants to use them right away, but it's not raining because it's summer. She asks her parents, "Well, could I use the umbrella in the sun?" And they say no. And then finally it rains, she uses her umbrella and her boots, and she goes to school and she comes home from school. And now she's a big girl and she doesn't remember the story anymore.

Okay, I'm not a big fan of Yashima's art style. He seems to almost consider people's faces to be unimportant. And when he does actually draw them, they look really creepy. There's this great picture of her in here holding the umbrella, and all you can see of her face are completely solid black eyes and no other facial features. She looks like some kind of undead creature. And she always looks that way, every time you can actually see her face, except when she's older. Usually she's hiding her face, like she's facing away from the reader or ducking and hiding her eyes under her hand. But every time you can see her face, pretty much all you can see is these solid black eyes, with a little bit of eyelash at the edge. Like this girl has been possessed by demons. I just do not care for the art style of this artist, and the story uses far too many words to tell this completely trivial story. It's like somebody is telling the story who doesn't know how to tell a story. They have no concept of brevity and word choice, making every small detail super important with no concept of what to stress.

Maybe it's actually based on a true event in a girl's life. The book actually has a dedication: it says, "To Momo on her eighth birthday." So maybe the author actually knew a girl named Momo who actually did this, but the story still isn't told very well.

Message: Umbrellas can only be used on rainy days. Or, umbrellas are awesome.

For more children's book reviews, see my website at <http://www.drtmk.com>.

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### Rhonda says

I love how this book travels through spring and summer. This would be great for Preschool through 1st grade. The colored pencil illustrations are amazing and I like how the book teaches a few Japanese words. This would be a great book teaching independence. My favorite part is at the end when she says that Momo will never forget that day, because it is the first day she did not hold her mother or her father's hand walking down the street.

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### Sarah Sammis says

<http://pussreboots.pair.com/blog/2016...>

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### **Melki says**

At first I couldn't believe any child would get that excited over using an umbrella . . . then I remembered when my oldest son was three and picked out a Tweety umbrella.

Then it didn't rain.

Anyway, I love the sweet and simple illustrations in this book. It's a classic.

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### **Aladdin Jones says**

The story, for me, is an appeal to the readers emotinos....which is a great strategy for authors to use in their works. I can honestly say that I was happy and thrilled at the beginning of the book, but as I continued to read those feelings of excitement slowly began to develop into sorrow. This is a tale of a young girl and her adventures with her prized umbrella. One takeaway that could be derived from this book is the concept of patience. Another is to realize just how important the little things in life are to some people. For some, it doesn't take much to please them or to encourage their day. Take the time to think of others as you give them a gift..even if it's a simple smile. Some will cherish those gifts throughout the remainder of their lives and it will bring joy to them each time they see it.

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### **Rachel says**

A story of an anticipated walk to school long forgotten by one, always remembered by another. Love that kanji are subtly incorporated, but the story itself is universal.

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### **Eva Leger says**

This just barely skims the 'okay' realm for us. I almost didn't give it 2 stars. The reason I ended up with this rating is because there are a few things about the book that we liked.

Julia and I liked the little girl, Julia and I liked the illustrations, and we liked the basics of the story. We did not like the rain sounds because it went on too long. It was almost like starting another book. Or song or whatever it could be called. It could have been shortened up by a lot. That doesn't seem like much but it was bothersome for us. It got so I just read the first one or two line of these noises and skipped the rest. This is another that I'm befuddled about in relation to the medal.

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### **ABC says**

I got the idea to read this book from [www.vintagechildrensbooksmaykidloves.com](http://www.vintagechildrensbooksmaykidloves.com)

It is a sweet book about a three year old girl who receives an umbrella and waits for it to rain. At the end, it talks about her not remembering this. (She was just three, after all.) So my son and I talked about what we remembered. Nice discussion starter.

There are Japanese words in the margins, which my son liked.

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### **Luisa Knight says**

Ages: 4 - 8

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### **Lori says**

Story about a Japanese American girl living in New York who waits for a rainy day so she can use her umbrella. Not only is it the first day she gets to use the umbrella, it is also the first day she walks in the city without holding one of her parents' hand. Illustrations in this Caldecott honor recipient, while still nice and colorful, do not hold up well to today's standards. The author includes a few Japanese words and their translations for young readers.

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### **Karen says**

Ellie read for her November Pizza Hut Reading Challenge..krb 11/14/16. She rated this 2 stars. Mom rates it 5 stars.

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### **Cory Schulz says**

This book is about a girl receives a new umbrella and this umbrella becomes very important to her. I love the story because every child has that special present that they adore over all others. The only aspects I don't like about this book are the illustrations. The illustration style depicts the people as appearing scary, even to me. The eyes are not drawn, and the faces are not present in many of the pictures. If I say the illustration first I would not even pick this book up. If I was going to use it in the classroom I would use it right before Christmas. Since kids will be getting presents and some families are richer than other ones I hope this book teaches the students to value what they get.

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### **Elaine says**

Yashima does a wonderful job making an umbrella come alive, through the eyes of a little girl. The anticipation builds up in Momo as to when she will be able to use her umbrella to use. The rain took forever to come but when it did, her umbrella came alive and so did the rain as it danced and made music on the little girl's umbrella. Cute children's story and the illustrations are very colorful and pretty to look at. The Japanese symbols on the top corner of each page add to the celebration of the Japanese culture.

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### **Melissa Coyle says**

I love it when children receive an item that they adore and are proud of! A sweet story!

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### **Connie says**

This story could easily be told about any child. It's just a girl waiting and waiting to use her new umbrella, and then striving to be responsible (and grown-up!) when she does.

I love the details, how this was the first time she walked home without holding her parents' hands, how she had forgotten other things before, but not her umbrella now that she's growing up.

The art isn't my favorite, I'll admit, but I can live with it.

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### **Maria Rowe says**

#### **• 1959 Caldecott Honor Book •**

Cute book about a little girl in NYC who gets rain boots and an umbrella for her third birthday... then has to wait and wait and wait for it to rain! I like the story, but I **love** the art. The colors are beautiful, and the style is really unique. Great book!

*Materials used: unlisted*

*Typeface used: unlisted*

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### **Mollie B says**

A Caldecott Honor book (1957), the images definitely reflect it. Stereotyping facial features are present; however, Taro Yahima was also Japanese. Unsure if I'll use it in a storytime.

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### **Miriam says**

Simple and sweet story of a toddler's impatient wait for a rainy day on which she can use her new umbrella.

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## **Aly Gutierrez says**

- Book summary

-A girl named Momo received rain boots and an umbrella as a gift. She was so excited but it did not rain, it was summer outside. Her mother told her to be patient, so she waited and wished for rain each day. One day it finally began to rain, so she excitedly grabbed her umbrella and rain boots and went to school. She did not forget her items and walked “straight like a lady” because she felt all grown up.

- Caldecott Honor Book

- Grade level, interest level, Lexile

-K-2

- Appropriate classroom use (subject area)

-This is a good book to use during reading time while teaching the value of patience.

- Individual students who might benefit from reading

-All students can benefit from learning patience through reading this book. As well as, students that are from different cultures can relate to the protagonist.

- Small group use (literature circles)

-Group can read together and then analyze the value they learned. What did Momo have to do since she couldn't use her umbrella? Have students share a time they had to be patient.

- Whole class use (read aloud)

-Good book to teach students patience in a fun way. After reading, students can give specific examples of times they had to be patient like Momo.

- Related books in genre/subject or content area

Taro Yashima also wrote other stories about multicultural children and a lesson they learned. “Crow Boy” is a similar book with a Japanese protagonist.

- Multimedia connections

-Available in hardcover and paperback copies.

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## **Robert Davis says**

### **\*\*\*\* Caldecott Honor (1959) \*\*\*\***

Delightful and charming story of a very little girl who waits eagerly for a rainy day so she can wear her new red boots and carry her new umbrella. There is a gentle tenderness in the imagery that reminded me of the brilliant and colorful art in my very favorite book from childhood, The Land of Lost Buttons by Kayako Nishimaki. The book is a reminiscence on forgotten childhood memories, and it made me smile.

