

# Umbrella Tales



Kathy Warnes

Telling Tales, Book 3

# Chapter One: Umbrella Days and Ways

## Summer Umbrella Days



Summer umbrella days

Guiding into the ways

Of lavender flowers,

Sunshine warming hours,

Farewells to winter boots past,

Walking barefoot in the grass.

## Umbrella Exploring



A tired but curious longhorn cow  
Seeing a purple umbrella, asked how  
We happened to be walking on the plain  
How do you know if it's going to rain?  
"I came to see you and have a nice chat,"  
Said the little girl wearing a purple straw hat,  
Can you uproot both roses and the thorns?  
With just one sweep of your powerful horns?  
While we are discussing can and can not,  
It's raining purple and white polka dots."



## Umbrella Walk



The wind is blowing  
with gusty tough talk,

Attacking a winter  
umbrella walk,

The lamp posts are  
dressed in winter white,

The snow snuggles up  
to the lamp light.

Snow blankets cover  
bushes and trees,

Kick them off, early  
spring, pretty please,

The wind keeps  
shooting cannons of air,

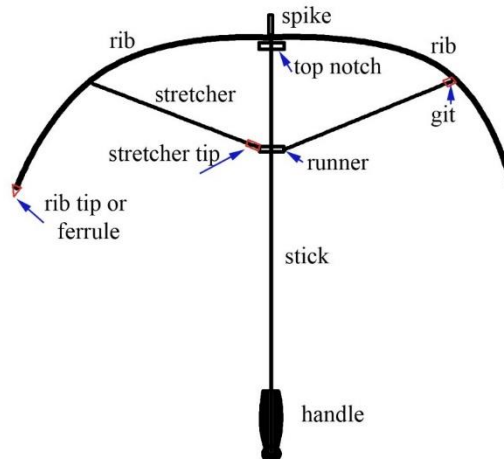
“Give me your umbrella, it’s only fair,  
To compete in a tug of war with me,  
I will whoosh and roar to victory.”  
But with all its bluster and glower,  
The wind can’t turn off umbrella power.



# Chapter Two: Understanding Umbrellas



Umbrella, the word, comes from the Latin “umbra” which means shade or shadow. An umbrella is a canopy or a tent stretched over wooden or metal ribs attached to a wooden, metal, or plastic pole. The canopy, which folds with the umbrella, is usually fabric or plastic.



People originally used umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun, but gradually they used a version of the umbrella called a parasol, usually not waterproof, to shield themselves from sunlight and umbrellas to keep dry in the rain. Parasol comes from the Latin word “sol” for sun. Makers of umbrellas and parasols create them small enough for their users to hold them in their hands to use them, carry them around, and store them when they aren’t using them.

Umbrellas and parasols sometimes have different names. People in the United Kingdom sometimes call an umbrella a brolly. A French name for an umbrella is parapluie and Americans sometimes call their umbrellas bumbershoots!

In the beginning, American umbrellas were clumsy and didn’t hold together well. They usually had long handles made of whalebone or cane and the joining of ribs and stretchers wasn’t very well done. In 1806, the uncovered whalebone frame weighed 10 pounds. By 1826, this was down to one and a half pounds. Heavy oiled silk and cotton were mostly used to cover the canopy and they tended to stick together. Eventually, umbrella makers used gingham instead of oiled silk, and in 1848, an inventor patented alpaca as a material to cover umbrellas. In 1852, umbrella makers introduced a new rib with a steel strip rolled into it which provided great strength to the umbrella.



# Chapter Three: Umbrellas in History



*Chinese umbrellas.*

Umbrellas appear in early Chinese writings of 2,000 years ago. These writings say they were supposed to have been invented by the wife of Lou Pan, a famous artisan. Umbrellas appear in the history of the Middle East, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Ancient India, the Far East, the Aztec Empire, Europe, and throughout history into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Umbrellas are mentioned in Genesis in the Bible.



Japanese and Korean Umbrellas. When Emperors ruled Japan, the Emperor always appeared in public with his parasol-bearer.





In China, umbrella bearers held a four-story umbrella over their emperor, and a Siamese king made his servants shield him with a seven-story umbrella.

In China, people used umbrellas to shelter themselves against the sun as well as the rain, and they were typically made of a form of glazed silk or paper and artistically painted. They were the first to waterproof umbrellas by coating them with lacquer.

In Burma, white umbrellas were reserved for the king and the sacred white elephant; the king claimed among his other titles, "Lord of the Great Parasol."

In ancient Egyptian art, parasols shelter Pharaohs on their thrones, and in Thebes princesses drove chariots with fringed sunshades.

In the Mediterranean region, people originally used umbrellas as sunshades, even though they weighed about four pounds and were made of whale bones and oiled cloth.

Greeks brought parasols to Europe, and in Rome umbrella use changed from sunshade to water repeller.

In the medieval Catholic Church, the umbrella became a symbol of authority, and umbrellas are still among the Pope's personal possessions.

In eighteenth century France, purse-makers made umbrellas and parasols.

In France, modern parasols shaded royal and non-royal heads from the sun from 1860 onward.

In 18<sup>th</sup> Century England, gentlemen didn't carry umbrellas. Most people believed that if a gentleman did carry an umbrella that meant that he couldn't afford an entire carriage to protect him from the sun and rain.

Around 1786, Jonas Hanway, founder of a London hospital, is rumored to be the first person in London with enough courage to make a habit of carrying his umbrella for thirty years.

In the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the rulers of Venice and the Pope used parasols and multiple pole umbrellas.

By the mid-1700s, umbrellas were more identified with keeping dry from the rain, and parasols with ladies wanting shade from the sun.

In 1787, umbrella manufacturing began in England. Manufacturers used acorns as decorations, because of an old superstition that oak trees were sacred to the god of thunder. Manufacturers fashioned elaborate handles of rare woods, leather, ivory and precious metals, and even encrusted some of them with jewels.

In the mid-1800s, world traveler Austen Henry Layard reported that he discovered a drawing of a king in his chariot with his attendant holding an umbrella over his head in the ruins of 885-860 B.C. Nineveh.

In 19<sup>th</sup> Century Cambridge, England, people could rent umbrellas by the hour.

In 1877, to show that he had a high rank, workers held a golden umbrella over the head of the Prince of Wales during his elephant riding tour of India.

In the 19th century the first Duke of Wellington almost always carried an umbrella, although he forbade his officers from carrying them onto the battlefield.

Queen Victoria presented an umbrella costing \$15,000 to a sultan.

Queen Victoria received an umbrella from Sir Garnet Wolseley, who captured it from an African king in 1874. It had 42 ribs and a circumference of 22 feet.

## Chapter Four: Umbrellas, American Style



In the beginning, American umbrellas were clumsy and didn't hold together well. They usually had long handles made of whalebone or cane and the joining of ribs and stretchers wasn't very well done. Heavy oiled silk and cotton were mostly used to cover the canopy and they tended to stick together.

Eventually, umbrella makers used gingham instead of oiled silk, and in 1848, an inventor patented

alpaca as a material to cover umbrellas. In 1852, umbrella makers introduced a new rib with a steel strip rolled into it which provided great strength to the ribs of the umbrella.

In 1772, when a Baltimore shopkeeper introduced the first umbrella seen in America, pedestrians stopped in their tracks; women were frightened, horses ran away, and naughty children threw stones. Finally, the town watch was called out to "quiet the disturbance."

In the United States, Benjamin Franklin carried an umbrella as early as 1786.

According to an entry in George Washington's Philadelphia Household, 1793-1794, in March 1794, George Washington paid for "mending an umbrella to be kept at the door." This umbrella was hand-made possibly in Philadelphia, and it probably was expensive and worth mending. George Washington also used an umbrella while riding, fixing it to the bow of his saddle.

When Reverend S.A. Bumstead of Maryland traveled in the Charlottesville, Virginia area in August 1822, he happened to see Thomas Jefferson out for a



ride. Reverend Bumstead noted that Jefferson was “mounted on an elegant bay horse going with speed and he had no hat on but a lady’s parasol, stuck in his coat behind, spread its canopy over his head...I am told he always rides in this manner during the summer without any hat...”

### President Abraham Lincoln’s Umbrella



Snowflakes began to fall in Utica, New York in 1861, where newly elected President Abraham Lincoln was making a speech. A supporter held this umbrella over the president-elect's head as the snowflakes grew thicker. The night before in Pittsburgh, President Lincoln had spoken to a multitude of five thousand people under a wall of umbrellas, using the same umbrella for protection.

### General Ulysses S. Grant’s Umbrella

During a Civil War battle, a group of officers were holding up umbrellas to shield themselves from a thunderstorm when General Ulysses Grant passed. “The general frowned at the sight of the umbrellas and sent an aid to the officers with his historic message:

“I do not approve of the use of umbrellas in war and will not allow any of my soldiers to make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the enemy.”

The officers abandoned their umbrellas.

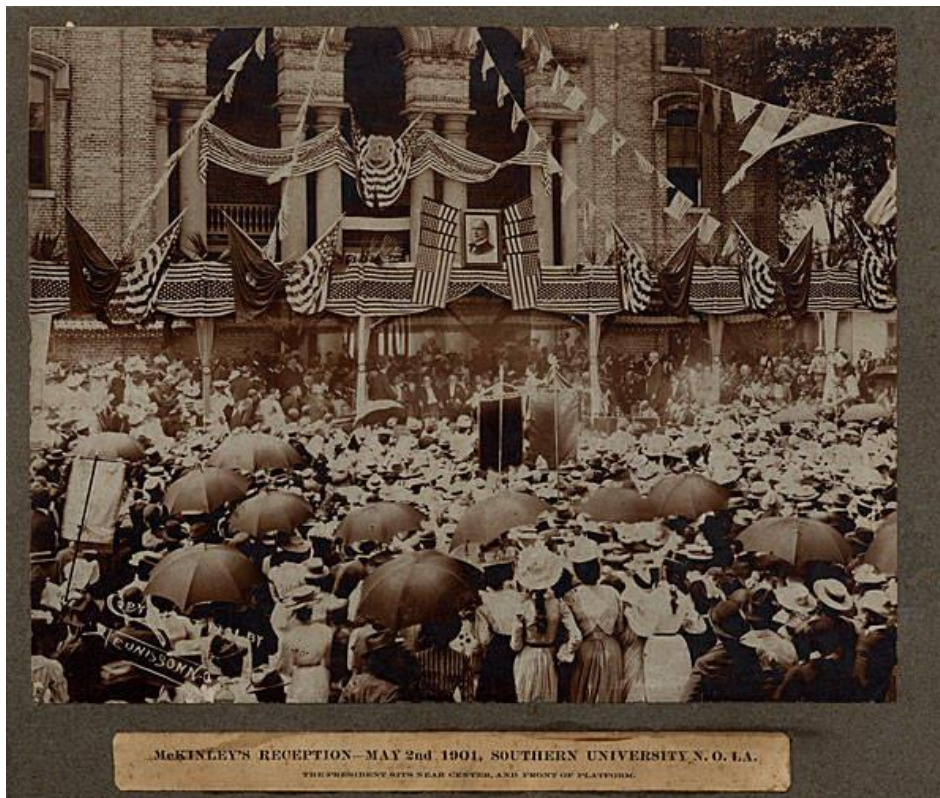
### General Robert E. Lee’s Umbrella

General Robert E. Lee didn’t mind carrying a grocery basket of food in public, but he refused to use an umbrella, even in a downpour. One day a student at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, was walking in the rain and he encountered General Lee, the University president. Rain splattered down the

General's gray cape, and raindrops dripped from the top of his wide brimmed hat and formed streams that ran into his beard

The General didn't seem to notice his water-logged state and inquired about several women he had signed pictures for as a favor to the student. The student replied that everything had turned out all right, and he was about to make another remark when General Lee said, "This is a good day for ducks. Goodbye." Then he left, probably still not regretting his lack of an umbrella.

## William McKinley's Campaign Umbrella





### President Woodrow Wilson's Flag Day Umbrella

President Woodrow Wilson speaking under an umbrella on Flag Day.

### President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Ebbets Field



On October 22, 1944, about 10,000-15,000 Brooklyn residents waited for President Franklin D. Roosevelt to appear at Ebbets field. They scrunched deep into their coat collars and huddled under their umbrellas.

### President Dwight D. Eisenhower's India Umbrella

On December 11, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Indian President Rajendra Prasad shared an umbrella to shield them from the hot sun in India.

### President John F. Kennedy's Inauguration Umbrella

On the night he was inaugurated president in 1961, an aide held an umbrella for First Lady Jacqueline and President John F. Kennedy.



## President Lyndon B. Johnson Goes to Church

When President Lyndon B. Johnson arrived for church services in Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 6, 1966, he shared an umbrella with a Secret Service agent and representative Spark Matsunaga.

## President Richard Nixon Watches Apollo



Dr. Thomas Paine, NASA Administrator, shielded First Lady, Mrs. Richard M. Nixon, from rain while the President and daughter Tricia watched Apollo 12 prelaunch activities at the Kennedy Space Center in November 1969. NASA Photo.

### President Gerald Ford Trips and Falls

When President Gerald Ford and his wife Betty Ford arrived in Salzburg, Austria, it was raining. As he came down the lower steps of the airplane ramp, he tripped and fell on the lower steps. His wife held the umbrella.

### President Ronald Reagan and his Polish Friends

In December 1981, President Ronald Reagan walks in the rain with Polish author and diplomat Romuald Spasowski and his wife Wanda. He and his wife eventually became United States citizens.



## Umbrella Inside Out



President George W. Bush experienced an umbrella upside down at Andrew Air Force Base in 2004. He recovered, but the fate of the umbrella is unknown.

## President Barack Obama's Umbrellas







On May 18, 2015, President Barack Obama walked in the rain from the Marine One helicopter to the Oval Office. He held an umbrella for his aides Valerie Jarrett and Anita Deck Breckenridge.

Some of the president's wives had dainty little umbrellas that barely covered their hats or bonnets.

# Chapter Five: Umbrellas Around the World

Chazerat, France



Umbrella decorations at rue Chazerat in Aurillac, Cantal, France. Krzysztof Golik. September 2018.

Aurillac has been the French umbrella capital since 1850 as well as the capital of the department of Cantal. More than half of the umbrellas made in France are produced in Aurillac. The local Aurillac

museum has an old umbrella collection, with some dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.



Kilkenny, Ireland

Umbrellas dot the Lane of Kilkenny Market Cross Shopping Center, Kilkenny County, Kilkenny, Ireland in September 2017. Andreas F. Borchert. Good umbrella manners are important in Ireland because it rains so often there!



## Redcliffe, Australia

Two young ladies relaxed in the sun with their parasols for protection at Sutton's Beach in Redcliffe, Australia, in 1919. John Oxley Library of Queensland, Australia.



## Nigeria



Under protective umbrellas, African people sell their produce to help make their living in October 2017. From “African people at work,” Nigeria. Chizurumbuka.

## Toronto, Canada

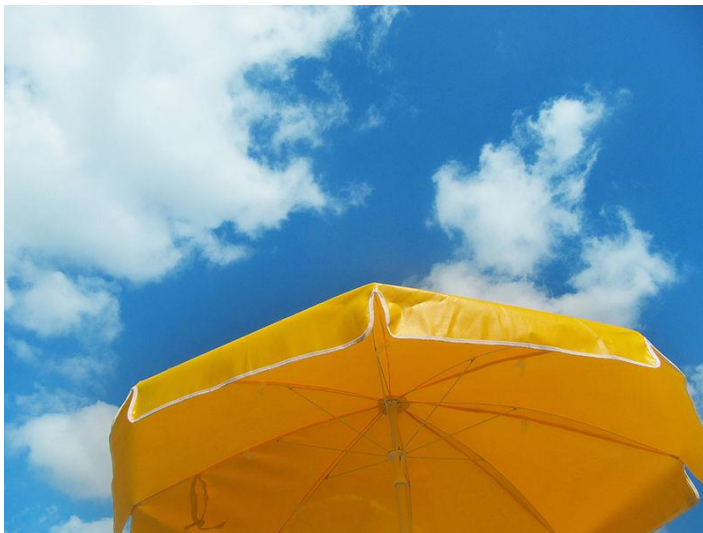


Bike racks and umbrellas in Toronto, Canada in February 2008.



Shaded by a large umbrella, this Chinese man navigates the road with his tricycle in Yangshuo, China in December 2008. Stougard.

## Santa Rosa, Argentina



A yellow Sombrilla, or umbrella in Spanish, floats against a blue sky in Santa Rosa, Argentina in December 2009. Juanedc from Zaragoza, Espana.

## Antarctica Umbrella



Scientists and engineers and others concerned with the problem of the earth getting warmer have come up with various plans to slow down or even stop the warming. One of them is a giant sunshade or umbrella in space that would shield the earth from the sun's light, including Antarctica. The Royal Society and NASA support the idea and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is interested in the idea.



# Chapter Six: Celebrating National Umbrella Day



National Umbrella Day is celebrated around the world on February 10 of every year.

Umbrellas are more than pretty colors decorating the sky! They keep us dry from the rain and protect us from the hot sun. Fashion conscious people use umbrellas to complete the outfits they wear and make their fashion statements. Umbrellas also have appeared in movies, including *Mary Poppins*.





## Celebrate National Umbrella Day

Buy a new umbrella and take it for a walk on National Umbrella Day, rain, snow, sleet, or hail. Take cool umbrella pictures and share them.

If the weather is warm, make a rain shower by holding a thumb to the hose nozzle and sprinkle water above children holding umbrellas. At the sandy beach, use an umbrella tip to trace pictures in the sand.

If the weather is snowy, make umbrella snowmen and pack an upside-down umbrella with snowballs, and use them to attack an umbrella snow fort made from a circle of opened umbrellas. Catch snowflakes in an upside-down umbrella.

Or if the weather points to indoor umbrella time, make an umbrella tent for crawling underneath. Drawing umbrellas to make an indoor umbrella border or mural is another fun indoor umbrella activity.

## . Take Care of Your Umbrella

Learning how to care for your umbrella is part of National Umbrella Day observations. Folding up an umbrella while it is still wet is bad for the umbrella! When you are finished using a wet umbrella, keep it open and find a place to park it. Good parking spots can be the bathtub, a mudroom, a basement, a carpet that can handle moisture, or a sink.

If you can't leave the umbrella open to dry out immediately, give it a quick shake to get rid of most of the water and then fold it. Open it up for drying as quickly as possible, because if it is left closed and wet, mildew may grow in it.

When the umbrella is dry, fold it and put it back in its pouch. Roll the umbrella back into its pouch instead of stuffing or squashing it, because creases caused by squashing the fabric of the umbrella are hard to get out and shorten the life of the umbrella.

While folding an umbrella, take care to avoid bending the spokes out of shape. Broken spokes should be mended as quickly as possible to preserve the umbrella.

For stains or marks on the umbrella, use a towel with warm water to pat off the marks. Use a gentle dishwashing soap for something stronger, but not harsh detergents or cleaners, because they may discolor or destroy the umbrella fabric.

### Using Umbrellas When It's Not Raining

An unopened, non-folding umbrella with a strong handle can serve as a temporary walking cane.

Umbrellas can be used to provide temporary shade or protection for growing garden plants. Weigh down the hook end of the umbrella to prevent it from blowing away.

Several umbrellas hanging from the rafters at various heights in a room with high ceilings provide a cool decoration.



## Umbrella Songs: Songs to Sing on National Umbrella Day



### Rain, Rain, Come and Play

(To the tune of Ring Around the Rosy)

Rain, rain, please fall and stay,  
Pitter patter and don't hurry away,  
Splish, splash, splish, splash,  
Quick, do the umbrella dash!

Rain, rush, it comes down in sheets,  
Rain, rain, it floods the streets,  
Sloppy splash, muddy hash,  
Quick, do the umbrella dash!

Rain, rain, will it ever stop?  
The raindrops dance, hoppity hop,  
They tap my nose and touch my toes,  
The umbrella dashes, there it goes!

# The Wind and the Umbrellas

(To the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)



The wind and the umbrellas blow  
round and round,

Round, round, round.

Round, round, round,

The wind and the umbrellas blow  
round and round,

Right side up and upside down!

The wind chases the umbrellas with a whoosh, whoosh, whoosh,

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh,

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh,

The wind chases the umbrellas with a whoosh, whoosh, whoosh,

They land on the ground with a swoosh!

The children chase the umbrellas with a hey, hey, hey,

Hey, hey, hey,

Hey, hey, hey.

The children chase the umbrellas with a hey, hey, hey,

Let's celebrate National Umbrella Day!

## Beach Umbrellas



(To the Tune of Ring Around the Rosy)

Let's shade our bodies  
out of the sun's reach,

With our giant umbrellas  
on the beach,

Sunshine, sun screen,

A sun burn can be so  
mean.

We scoot under our  
umbrella shade,

Lie on the beach towel unafraid,

Beach umbrellas, keep the sun,

From burning anyone.

The umbrella shelters us all day,

As we ride the waves every which way,

Tide comes in with a clout,

Wind blows the umbrellas inside out!





## Umbrella in the Air



(To the tune of the Farmer in the Dell)

Umbrella in the air,  
Fly Mary Poppins high,  
Float away earthly care,  
To the edge of the sky.

Umbrella in the air,  
You heard my heartfelt sigh,  
You made me earth aware,  
While you taught me how to fly!

## Umbrella Standing by the Sea



(To the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)

Umbrella standing by the sea,  
Facing mountains high as they can be,  
Umbrella covering people small,  
Umbrella looking very tall.  
Umbrella standing by the sea,  
You are strong as you can be!

## Sharing an Umbrella with a Friend



(To the tune of Row, Row, Row, Your Boat)

There is no time I'd rather spend,  
Then sharing an umbrella with a friend,  
Raindrops swim to us from the cloudy sky,  
Our umbrella keeps us quite dry!

There is no place I'd rather be,  
In the whole world or sailing the sea,  
There is nothing that I would rather do,  
Then share an umbrella with you

# Sea Mountains

(To the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)



When rain waves come riding from the sea,  
They look like mountain monsters to me,  
We share our umbrella while we stand,  
Feeling the rain and waves spray the land.

Mountain monsters make me feel small,  
I wonder if I'll ever be tall  
I can face them whatever they do,  
When I meet them standing next to you!

# Can you See What I See?

(To the tune of The Farmer in the Dell)



Look and see what I  
see,

Umbrella rainbow  
colors,

They all look the  
same to me,

Do you see the  
same, mother?

The different things we see,  
In sunny or rainy weather,  
Although we don't agree,  
We both see them together.



# I Have a Big Umbrella

(To the tune of Where Is Thumbkin?)



I have a small umbrella, I have a small umbrella,  
It keeps me dry, keeps me dry,  
I hold my small umbrella, even though I'm a small fella,  
The wind can make it fly, the wind can make it fly!

I have a big umbrella, I have a big umbrella,  
For rain and a sunshade, for rain and a sunshade,  
I'll share my big umbrella, even though I'm a big fella,  
Do you want to trade? Do you want to trade?

# When Umbrellas Get Wet

(To the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb)



When it rains you sometimes get,  
Your umbrella soaking wet,  
Your umbrella soaking wet,  
Make sure you stand instead of sit,  
When your umbrella's soaking wet!

As you walk along in the rain,  
Along in the rain,  
Along in the rain,  
Wear your yellow boots instead of red,  
Hold your umbrella close to your head!

# Panda Umbrella

(To the tune of Here We Go Around the Mulberry Bush)



Panda walks with his umbrella,  
With his umbrella,  
With his umbrella,  
His umbrella is sky blue,  
With his picture on it too.

Panda puts his umbrella down,  
His umbrella down,  
His umbrella down,

Panda smiles as he explains,  
He's looking around for rain.

## Umbrella Turns

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row, Your Boat)



There's one way to hold an umbrella,  
I'll tell you so you know,  
Hold the handle tight with all of your might,  
And never let it go.

There's two ways to hold an umbrella,  
Believe me this is true,  
Umbrellas are better held together,  
Four hands are better than two!



# Waiting in the Rain

(To the Tune of the Farmer in the Dell)



I'm waiting for a ride,  
My blanket by my side,  
I smile instead of cry,  
My umbrella keeps me dry.

My ride is slow to come,  
I smile and I hum,  
Still anticipating,  
Umbrella tired of waiting.

# Showers of Flowers

(To the Tune of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little, Star)



We two ducks will now  
explain,  
Why it is that ducks like rain,  
We can wear our green rain  
coats,  
And our green hats while we  
tote  
A green umbrella with flowers  
Falling in pink and blue  
showers.  
We hold our umbrella, walk  
along,  
Singing our umbrella song.

# Chapter Seven: Umbrella Poems

## Umbrella Faces and Races



Umbrellas faces with colorful ways,  
Follow the rain with different paces,  
Alone they sprint bright in rainy day haze,  
Together they win marathon races.

## Umbrella Fox



I am an umbrella fox  
I'm a rebel outside the box  
That means I question most things,  
that the humans I see brings  
to my attention as the way  
My umbrella works today.  
I will claw and bite and fight,  
To make raindrops fall just right,  
Now I am working as a lark  
to make my umbrella bark!



## Umbrella Days



Welcome umbrella days every one,  
I twirl my umbrella, oh it's fun,  
We don't need to wait for rainy weather  
To have a wonderful time together!

## Umbrella Flowers



When umbrellas slip out of your hands,  
They run away to faraway lands,  
Where they are changed by magical powers,  
To turn into beautiful spring flowers.

## Umbrella Color



Black umbrella...grrr, I'm a grouch,  
I face the rain, straight tall, no slouch,  
Keep my eyes closed for a while,  
Until the sun makes me smile!

## Umbrella Drops



Rain falls on my umbrella...drip, drop, drop,  
Some of them land on my umbrella top,  
Other raindrops gather under my boots,  
Or sit in puddles wherever it suits.  
I stand and smile and stand and wait  
For the sun to come out. It can't escape!



## Umbrella Black



When days are umbrella black  
With mingled purple and blue sky,  
Remember, when you think you lack  
The courage to try and try,  
The sun will just set for the night,  
The sun shines through fog and sorrow,  
It is not gone, just out of sight,  
You'll see it again tomorrow!

## The Umbrella Talk



They sit talking, girl to fella,  
Using words and smiles too,  
Point umbrella to umbrella,  
“I really like talking to you.”

## Umbrella Street



Meet me on a sun shiny street,  
With umbrellas floating above,  
Park your bicycle, use your feet,  
Follow the umbrella's slow moves.  
And their colors, see their colors,  
Against the sky a powder blue,  
Purple, orange, and red hover,  
Yellow, the color of hope, too.

## Purple Umbrella Power



Never mind the strength of a flower,  
March for purple umbrella power!  
Yellow umbrellas glare with the sun,  
Blue umbrellas calm everyone,  
Green umbrellas encourage growing,  
But purple is the color for showing!





# Umbrella

The following five poems are called cinquains. A cinquain is a type of poem where a single word is chosen as a title, two words describing the title follow, and three action words come next. The fourth line describes the poets feeling about the topic, and the fifth line repeats the title.



Umbrella

Sturdy, Upright.

Flapping, Turning, Inside Out,

Fair weather friend,

Umbrella.

## Umbrella



Umbrella

Open, Yellow

Raining, Blowing, Soaking,

Boy respecting rain and hoping.

Umbrella.

# Umbrella



Umbrella

Spider Woven

Anchoring, dancing, attaching,

Lacey, Lethal, Masterpiece

Umbrella.

# Umbrella



Umbrella

Bowl, Handle,

Frowning, Raining, Splashing,

Soaked and Shivering,

Umbrella.



# Umbrella



Umbrella.

“Umbra”, Shade,

Shielding, Shading, Sharing,

Sheltering from the storm,

Umbrella.

## Umbrella Moon

The next five poems are Haikus. Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Haiku poems consist of 3 lines. The first and last lines of a Haiku have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. The lines sometimes rhyme



Full umbrella meets,  
Full moon navigating sky,  
Just how tall am I?

## Parasol Dreaming



Parasol back drop,  
Blue eyed day-dreaming must stop,  
The sun is on top!

## Autumn Umbrella



Umbrella perceives,  
Rain of red and yellow leaves,  
Hibernating trees.



## Parasol Pals



Parasol people,  
Different, but even so,  
People, don't you know?

## Bright Red Parasol



Bright red parasol,  
Going wherever I go,  
Teach me what I know.

## Umbrella Pals



Playing catch, watching football on T.V.,  
We learn from each other, him and me,  
Together time whatever we can do,  
Sometimes our separate lives are a zoo.  
But nature is our outdoors teacher,  
We just have to walk to reach her,  
It's a feeling we don't have to explain,  
Walking with our umbrellas in the rain

## Umbrella Hope



Yellow, hope's color, sometimes is a tease,  
Sometimes my yellow umbrella just blows,  
From stormy winds and baleful breezes  
Its white reality underside shows.  
I know when this happens it's up to me,  
To straighten my umbrella once again,  
The yellow on top so people can see,  
That hope is always here and right as rain.



## Umbrella Ladies



Umbrella ladies quite proper and prim,  
One shows curvy comfort, the other trim,  
Both walk with a smile as they go  
With different umbrellas for their stroll.  
Their height and dresses different design  
They may not always be of the same mind,  
The hidden truth their opposites explain,  
Different umbrellas face the same rain.

## Penguin Umbrella Power



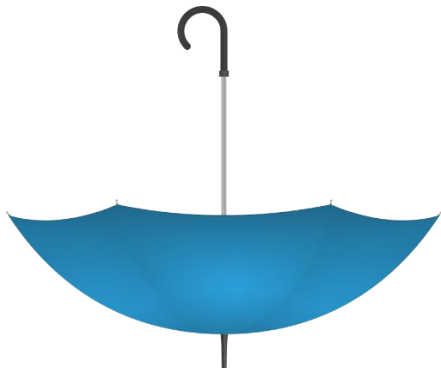
I never understood why men don't like umbrellas,  
Why they think umbrellas aren't for fellas,  
Besides protecting fashions from the rain,  
Umbrellas offer men a status gain,  
A dignified umbrella on their arm,  
Provides them an air of genteel charm,  
When someone threatens and I feel dread,  
I hit my umbrella over their head,  
Umbrellas add much to penguin power  
I'm the penguin of the year and hour!



## Spring Umbrella Walk

In the spring Brownie and I once again,  
Grab our umbrella and walk in the rain,  
The rain is steady and warm and slow,  
It greens the trees and makes the flowers grow,  
The spring wind is like a sleeping bear,

Warming the rain and snoring the air,  
Then the wind wakes up with a strong frown,  
And turns my umbrella upside down!



# Chapter Eight: Umbrella Poems

## Dandelion Umbrellas



Umbrella winds whooshing across the sky,  
Launch dandelion parachutes to fly  
Then they glide gently to the soft ground,  
Launch their seeds without making a soft sound.  
Dandelions grow and dance with the wind,  
Until it's umbrella season again.





## Stella Rabbit's Runaway Umbrella

A brown haired, blue eyed rabbit name Stella,  
Loved her blue, red, and yellow umbrella,  
As soon as raindrops fell from the sky,  
Stella would hold her umbrella high.  
A sneaky wind with a hip and a hop,  
Swooshed underneath the umbrella's top,  
The wind blew swift, the wind whooshed loud,  
Blowing the umbrella into the clouds.



Stella followed her umbrella ship  
Taking a rooftop sailing trip  
Flying over brick chimney tops  
Touching the grass in rabbit hops.  
She flew over land, she flew over sea,  
Until she finally rested in a tree,  
But her umbrella sailed on  
Covering every store in town.

Grocery shoppers felt quite harried,  
Yelling that the carrots were buried.  
Stella jumped and Stella hip hopped,  
She caught the umbrella and made it stop,  
But when she tried to fold it away,  
The umbrella sailed another day,  
Until Stella riding her friend Pete parrot  
Sank it with wild yellow carrot!



## Umbrella in the Middle



Fierce rain and wind unfurled,  
The bright green umbrella twirled,  
With its girl attached it swirled,  
Traveled clear around the world.

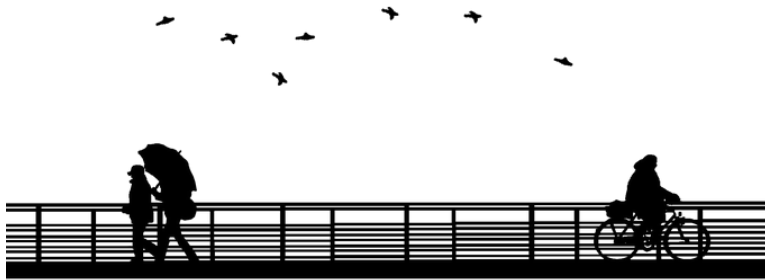
Rain and wind opened with a snap,  
The red umbrella flipped and flapped,  
With its boy attached it unwrapped,  
The land and sea it overlapped.

Flying over lands big and little,  
Eating M&Ms and a stale Skittle,  
Holding on hard like peanut brittle,  
Two travelers met in the middle!



# Umbrella Bridges and Walls

An English Shakespearean Sonnet is a 14 line poem. It contains 3 quatrains (4 line stanzas) followed by 1 couplet (2 line stanzas). Its rhyming scheme of ABAB CDCD EFEF GG



Umbrella bridges guide people across,  
Friendship and gain and loneliness and loss,  
Sometimes an umbrella is a wind toss,  
Whirling and blowing away the gloss  
of endlessly similar sunny days  
glaring out the blinding and misty haze  
of differences in the whys and ways  
that create dramatic acts in life's plays.  
As umbrellas, umbrellas help make walls  
Creating sturdy, waterproof air halls,  
with no wave wash or wind blowing at will,  
with the currents stubbornly still.  
Whether the umbrella is bridge or wall,  
The operator chooses, after all!

## Pink Umbrella

Acrostic Poems, also known as name poems, spell out names or words with the first letter in each line. While the author is doing this, they're describing someone or something they deem important.



and escape inside,  
But the rain quickly comes along for the ride,  
Right up to her door the rain pursues Polly,  
Ending her chances of escaping dryly,  
Latch sticks, open door, what else can Polly do?  
Looking behind her, she hopes the rain is fooled,  
And when the door opens, the rain dashes through!

Polly takes her pink boots  
for a rainy walk,

Instead of getting them  
wet, she takes them off,

Next, she sits her  
umbrella for scrutiny,

Keeping pink umbrella on  
boot guard duty,

Umbrella-less, she quick  
turns around to flee,

Maybe she can run home



## Umbrella Earth and Sky



Sally Anne, with a hopeful sigh,  
Aims umbrella across the sky,  
Leaping legs lunge and always try  
Longing to stretch a mile high.  
Yearning to learn how to free fly.  
As the wind blows fierce with release  
Now the earth and grass grow with ease,  
Now Sally Anne holds hope and sees,  
Earth and cloud possibilities.

## Umbrella Walking

Free verse is non-metrical, nonrhyming lines closely following natural speech rhythms. There may be a regular pattern of sound or rhythm in free verse, but it has no metrical plan.



We stroll, my umbrella and I,  
Through haze leaking rain  
And sun possibilities.  
Sun gropes through fog,  
Umbrellas pierce rain,  
Smiles unzip possibilities,  
And background buildings  
Surge foreground.  
While boundary fences  
Cradle floors  
And coax steps into tomorrow.

## Umbrella Lives



People live in umbrella hovers,  
Solitary, abiding,  
Deliberately transparent sides,  
are cloudy from rough rain rides  
and rogue rain drops rash sliding  
over protective covers.

## Umbrella- Wooden Wall

A cinquain is a type of poem where a single word is chosen as a title, two words describing the title follow, and three action words come next. The fourth line describes the poets feeling about the topic, and the fifth line repeats the title.



Umbrella-Wooden

Wooden Girl

Flying, Growing, Glowing

Umbrella life boundaries inside out

Umbrella-Wooden.

## Triple Crown Umbrella



Triple Crown Umbrella

Sun, Rain,

Raining, Shining, Blowing.

Umbrella of many moods,

Triple Crown Umbrella.



## The Ballad of Barley, the Umbrella Bear

Ballad poems tell a story with a beginning, middle, and end. The traditional ballad stanza consists of four lines, rhymed abcb (or sometimes abab--the key is that the second and fourth lines rhyme). The first and third lines have four stresses, while the second and fourth have three.



One day Barley Bear waved  
goodbye,  
Blue umbrella under arm,  
Barley didn't take time to cry,  
He wasn't even alarmed.  
The world called, wild and free,  
Barley ran to see it all,  
The road pleaded, please explore me,  
Barley listened to the call.

Barley spotted a village small,  
He stopped still and looked around,  
While he sat down to rest his paws,  
Umbrella fell upside down.



Barley cried and growled in despair,  
He didn't know what to think,  
His umbrella couldn't fly air,  
It sat grounded on the blink.

He heard a whisper in his ear,  
"I don't know why you're crying,  
Whatever it is, I am here,  
Forget about your sighing.



Barley's new friend showed him the way,  
To an umbrella fix shop,  
After staying a single day,  
The umbrella blew its top.  
Barley's new friend, her name was Kay,  
Said, "Look, it's now or never,  
Hang on unless you want to stay"  
Walking the road forever.

So Barley and Kay ceased to roam,  
Down the blue umbrella road,  
They were both glad to land at home,  
The warm sun shining like gold.

Kay smiled and Barley did too,  
The sun shone like a yellow ball,  
"Now that my umbrella is new,"  
Home doesn't seem bad at all.



Now Barley and his wife Kay,  
Count staying home much gain,  
They smile at the sun each day,  
Sit happily in the rain.

## Smile Under Your Umbrella

Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Haiku poems consist of 3 lines. The first and last lines of a Haiku have 5 syllables and the middle line has 7 syllables. The lines sometimes rhyme.



My dimples I train  
Umbrella smile again  
Covering all rain.



## Umbrella Over Umbrella



Umbrella for me,  
Another to oversee,  
All humanity.



## Mary Umbrella McGrew

The next six poems are limericks. A limerick is a humorous poem consisting of five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines must have seven to ten syllables while rhyming and having the same verbal rhythm. The third and fourth lines only have to have five to seven syllables, and have to rhyme with each other and have the same rhythm



Pretty young Mary Umbrella McGrew,  
Flew at night with her umbrella of blue,  
She cleared the tall trees,  
But skinned her bare knees  
Scared the light post and tick- tocked the clock, too.

## Umbrella Red, Trip Ahead!



Umbrella red could mean a trip ahead,  
Or just a rest stop while someone 's in bed,  
Umbrellas can be  
Airborne and windy,  
A bicycle favors the road instead.

## Do You Need an Umbrella?



The cow is grazing, the rain is hazing,  
Keeping dry is a most difficult thing,  
Please pick up your pace,  
The rain's washed my face,  
Using an umbrella is amazing.

## Fred Fish Umbrella Wish



Fred, an anxious, water-soaked fish,  
Gave his tail a fearful swish,  
My umbrella, I say  
Nearly blew me away,  
Will King Neptune grant me a wish?

## The Short Term Umbrella



Although the sun throws tantrum spots around,  
Its warm smile wakes up and warms the ground  
When rain showers fall  
The umbrella calls,  
And it answers it with a short-term frown.



## Zip-Line Umbrella



When your umbrella zips the line with you,  
There isn't very much that you can do,  
Best course of action?  
Pray for good traction,  
In the meantime, hang on as tight as glue.

## Sizeable School Umbrella

Narrative verse can be short or long, the only requirements are that it have a beginning, middle and end to the story often told within metered lines and stanzas.



Teacher Nan bought an umbrella large,  
So big it buried her front porch swing,  
She said, "It is larger than a barge,"  
I'll never use that humongous thing!  
Teacher Nan and umbrella came to school,  
On a warm and bright sunshiny day,  
After several lessons worked through,

She sent the children outside to play.  
The children went walking in the woods,  
Gathering ferns and wild flowers,  
On the walk back with all of their goods,  
The clouds poured down bucket rain showers.  
“Squish! We are getting wringing wet soaked,  
The children cried in sorrowful tones  
All of us and that’s no sunny joke,  
Have closet umbrellas stored at home.”  
Her umbrella and dry Teacher Nan,  
Ran quickly out to cover them all,  
“I’ll protect you all, glad that I can.  
My heart and umbrella are wide and tall.”

# Blowing Up My Umbrella



I'm bigger than my umbrella,  
I am a pretty big fella,  
What will I do if I need it?  
I'll make it grow a little bit.  
I blew it up like a balloon,  
But all too quick, sooner than soon,  
The air went whoosh, umbrella flat,  
I put it on my head for a hat.  
Then one day the rain fell in rivers,  
Felt so cold I got the shivers,  
Blew up my umbrella, for after all,  
A tiny one's better than none at all!

# Chapter Nine : Umbrella Birthdays

1890s

Japan



The National Archives, UK

Wind costume. A young Japanese girl braves the wind, 1890s.

Umbrella fact: Japan. In Japan, oil paper umbrellas are often called wagasa or Japanese umbrella. The umbrellas with a bull's eye design are called janomegasa. Often, manufacturers color the scaffold and handle of the umbrella black, but sometimes they use brighter colors.



# 1910



Forest Park, Illinois, 1910

Women's Umbrellas

at Prices that Will Suit Everybody

Umbrellas, one lot women's 24-inch umbrellas with steel  
.rod and frame, 7 ribbed, boxwood handles and mission  
style handles, special at each, for only.....95 cents

Chicago Englewood Economist, August 22, 1910, p. 4

A vintage black and white photograph of a young child sitting on stone steps. The child is wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a sailor-style jacket, and dark shoes with white socks. They are holding a large, dark, open umbrella. The background shows a grassy area and a stone wall.

Waterloo Times Tribune, October 25, 1921, p. 4



# 1930



## The Ark of the Covenant Goes to War Under Umbrellas

On November 15, 1935, the Ark of the Covenant went to war in two American trucks and with a dozen pink and green umbrellas to keep off the Ethiopian sun.

Coptic priests removed two tablets from the Holy of Holies in the Churches of St. George and St. Gabriel in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Abba and started off with them for Dessye halfway between Addis Abba and Mekelle. Their goal was to give spiritual encouragement to the warriors who were fighting the invading Italian Army.

Due to the belief that contamination would force them to be returned to Addis Abba for re-blessing, by the Abuna, the Ethiopian Pope, both tablets were placed on trucks with heavy guards of priests who huddled over them with ceremonial umbrellas to shield them from prying pagan eyes.

According to tradition, the Original Ark of the Covenant lies deep under the captured city of Aksum, having been buried in order to save it from Muslim and Arab raiders of the Middle Ages.

The story goes that it was originally brought to Aksum by King Menelik, a son of King Solomon of ancient Israel and the Queen of Sheba, Makeda, from ancient Ethiopia. King Solomon is supposed to have ordered a replica made of the Ark of the Covenant for sons of his nobles and temple priests to send back to Aksum with Menelik when he returned to his mother's kingdom after going to Israel to meet his father.

Students of Biblical history said today that the original Ark of the Covenant has been kept in the holy city of Aksum since the days of Solomon

Kingston (Jamaica) Gleaner, November 15, 1935, p. 73

## Sun Sheltered Mail, 1937



To some people, umbrellas were more than rain repellers or sun shades. Umbrellas were backdrops to adventure, onlookers to the joys and sorrows of life. Umbrellas made solid, steady companions.

1940s

19  
SHOPPING DAYS  
UNTIL  
CHRISTMAS



**SPEARE BROTHERS**  
CHESTER'S Fashion Corner

MEN'S  
GIFT UMBRELLAS  
2.98 to 6.98

Fine quality cotton rayons and nylons with strong, sturdy 8 and 10 rib frames. A gift any man will appreciate.

# UMBRELLAS

FROM SPEARE'S COMPLIMENT THE GIVER

There's no gift problem for the wise shopper who decides to give umbrellas from Speare's Umbrella Dept. You'll find a style to suit every taste and occasion . . . and a gift of such beauty and practicality will always win a warm welcome from anyone on your list.

**LARGE SELECTION  
OF  
WOMEN'S 16 RIB  
UMBRELLAS**

**2.99 and 3.98**

Hundreds of gay, colored plaids, novelty striped border styles, all-over prints and solid colors. Handsome handles with matching ferrules. There's one to fit stylishly with every outfit.



WOMEN'S  
**Nylon Folding  
UMBRELLAS**  
**1.198**

Popularity winners of the year! And no wonder, they're so convenient, so style-wise, so utterly the last word in umbrella fashions. Compact and attractive in the season's most popular colors.

OTHER FOLDING UMBRELLAS  
8.98 to 12.98



BOYS'  
**RAYON  
UMBRELLAS**  
**2.98**

Imagine junior's pride at having a sturdy black umbrella just like Dad's. You'll appreciate the colds it will save him this year, too, by keeping him snug and dry in the stormiest weather.



**16 RIB  
CELANESE  
UMBRELLAS**  
**4.98**

Dressy umbrellas to fit in with even the most special occasions. Fashioned in popular plaids and solid colors.



UMBRELLA  
DEPT.  
SPEARE'S  
FIRST  
FLOOR

**GIRLS'  
COTTON PLAID  
UMBRELLAS**  
**1.88**

What little miss wouldn't be delighted with a gay little umbrella of her very own. Have one waiting for her on the Christmas tree.

**GIRLS'  
RAYON PLAID  
UMBRELLAS**  
**2.88**

Colorful plaids in little fashions as stylish and quality-conscious as big Sister's.

**16 RIB  
NYLON  
UMBRELLAS**  
**4.98**

At last—umbrellas of wonderful quick-drying nylon. In solid colors of black, navy, brown and maroon. Unusually handsome crystal handles set with flower designs.

"Personally Yours"

**THE INITIALED UMBRELLA**

Initialed White  
You Wait

**4.98**

What could be a smarter accessory . . . or a more welcome gift! A lovely umbrella with her initial beautifully cut out on gold-tone metal, highlighting the stunning lucite handle. 16-rib, silvered frame, covered in plain, bordered, or plaid celanese. Navy blue, black, brown or maroon.



**Store Hours: Mon. Thru Thurs., 9:30 to 6:30 P. M.—Fri. 9:30 to 8:00 P. M.—Sat. 9:30 A. M. to 6 P. M.**

Chester (Pennsylvania Times) December 1, 1947, page 24.



## The Umbrella Man



Morris Blivas, Umbrella Man, tests a mailman's umbrella which has tiny springs along every rib. The ribs snap open when the umbrella user presses down with his or her thumb or finger on a button at the top of the handle. The umbrella is large to keep off as much rain as possible. It has a crook at the end of the handle so the mailman can carry it over his arm at the same time he carries his mail to deliver.

Morris Blivas, was born in Russia, but now lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He is an Umbrella Man in not only Cedar Rapids, but also Clinton, Davenport, and many other cities and towns near Cedar Rapids. In one year,

he estimated that he repaired between 6,000 and 7,000 umbrellas.

In 1917 when he first became an umbrella man, Morris repaired seven or eight rib umbrellas. After World War I, the ten and 16 rib umbrellas were created. During World War II, umbrella manufacturers had to cut back to the ten rib model of umbrella because steel was so scarce. Black silk and cotton coverings were the only ones used to cover most umbrellas. The Umbrella Man used nylon and good cotton materials to cover the umbrellas he repaired in 1947.

The Umbrella man reported that women's umbrellas have changed over the years. The long handled model umbrella disappeared and the umbrella that the modern woman used had short handles and a bright cover. A modern umbrella for a man was usually 25 inches long and had ten ribs.

American homes in 1947 had more umbrellas than years before. The Umbrella Man believed that people owned more umbrellas because they had more money than before. (The Cedar Rapids Gazette, April 18, 1947, page 4)

1950s



View of Cliffside Beach in Nantucket, Rhode Island in the 1950s. Nantucket Historical Association.

## Amazing Invention, the Umbrella

At one time in their history, only kings and queens could use umbrellas and they could use them just to decorate their thrones instead of shielding their bodies from the sun and rain.

One of the most famous umbrellas is described in the book, Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe. While he was marooned on a tropical island, he made a gigantic umbrella using skins with the hair turned outward.

When pioneering umbrella users first used them on the streets of London, many people made fun of them. Some of the horse and coach drivers would splash mud

on anyone they saw with an umbrella. They knew that a person using an umbrella would not need a cab. Sometimes a hotel, inn, or shop rented umbrellas by the hour.

Umbrella makers made one kind of early umbrella with one rib longer than the others. They attached a long wire to the long rib which trailed behind the umbrella user and acted as lightning rod.

Girls and women made umbrellas fashion statements. They matched their umbrellas with their shoes, dresses, purses, and scarves.

Sir Hubert Wilkins, the Arctic explorer, ordered one of the largest umbrellas of his time. It measured eight feet wide and when covered with snow, it resembled an igloo.

The poet James Whitcomb Riley used his umbrella in an unusual way. He kept scribbled notes for his poems in it.

At least two new ideas for umbrellas were introduced in the 1950s. One umbrella inventor proposed a square umbrella that would keep a person's shoulders dry as well as the rest of their body. Another inventor introduced an umbrella with a chin strap and a shoulder support to hold the umbrella. The strap and shoulder support would free a person's hands to carry packages or books.

Montana Standard, July 19, 1959, p. 54

## 1960s



By 1969, umbrellas were as much a part of people's lives as sun, rain, and snow. umbrellas.

It took umbrellas a long time to spread across the world.

People in early civilizations, including China, Rome, Greece, Egypt and Iraq used umbrellas. In these early days, royalty wanted to keep umbrellas just for themselves. Slaves and servants held umbrellas over kings and chiefs. Layers of umbrellas on one stick identified states and territories under one ruler. Titles on one king who ruled over Ava, next to Siam, included "Lord of the Twenty-Four Umbrellas!"

The umbrella traveled from Italy to France, and from France to England and from England to America. English women started to carry umbrellas in the time of Queen Anne, who came to the English throne in 1702, but few Englishmen used them until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1752, General James Wolfe, who later conquered Quebec, said the umbrella was generally used in France. He wondered why the men of England had not adopted the umbrella. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a few brave men in England and American began to carry umbrellas. When they started carrying umbrellas, they called their umbrellas "Robinsons," after Robinson Crusoe in Daniel Defoe's 1719 novel. Robinson Crusoe made an umbrella out of skins to protect himself from the sun.

In 1750, English traveler, Jonas Hanway, brought the first umbrella from France to be carried on the streets of London. In 1752, John MacDonald, a Scotch footman who had traveled with Jonas two years before, walked down a London street holding an umbrella. A crowd of people followed, making fun of him. People in the crowd shouted, “Frenchman, why don’t you get a coach?!”

One of the answers to the question was that coachmen didn’t like umbrellas. Umbrella allowed people to walk through the rain without hiring a coach. Drivers discouraged people from using umbrellas by spattering umbrella users with mud and lashing umbrellas with their whips. They shouted insults at umbrella users.

Umbrellas crossed the ocean to the American Colonies in the early 1770s, but they were not popular at first. Churches and clergymen considered early umbrella users wicked. They criticized umbrellas, saying God made the rain and to seek protection from using umbrellas was defying God’s will.

Beckley West Virginia Post Herald, April 25, 1969, p. 4

One of the first umbrella shops in existence opened in 1830 at 53 New Oxford Street in London, England.

In 1928, Hans Haupt’s pocket umbrellas appeared. In 1969, Bradford E. Phillips, the owner of Totes Incorporated of Loveland, Ohio, obtained a patent for the first “working folding umbrella.”

Umbrellas have also been fashioned into hats as early as 1880 and as recently as 1987.



# 1970s



## New York City Umbrella Store

In August 1970, Norman Simon, or “Uncle Sam,” operated three umbrella and walking stick stores in New York City. His main store was located on 45<sup>th</sup> Street.

Every morning when Sam got up, he looked out the window to see whether the sun was shining or rain was falling. He always looked for a strong, steady rain, which would increase his umbrella business. He both made and repaired umbrellas.

An umbrella craftsman, Sam had many ordinary and famous customers. President Richard Nixon ordered transparent umbrellas from Sam to use when he made outdoor speeches. Movie star Conard Nagel often sat in a corner of Sam’s umbrella store studying his lines. Customers came to see the movie star and left with umbrellas under their arms.

Television weathermen, including Tex Antoine from New York, bought umbrellas from Sam and mentioned him in their broadcasts.

One of Sam's most interesting umbrellas featured a short front and an extended back. This umbrella dated from the days when a woman had to keep her bustle dry!

Oswego Palladium-Times, August 3, 1970, page 11



# 1980s



People with umbrellas in Downtown Seattle, Washington. 1985. Seattle Municipal Archives.

## Umbrellas for Kings and Commoners

Early umbrella history records that noblemen and kings used umbrellas for ceremonies and status more than protection from the sun or rain. Servants, slaves, and other people of lesser rank had the duty of holding umbrellas over their heads. And what umbrellas they were! Documents describe them as having frame of gold and covers of rich silks. The covers were embroidered with pearls and other jewels and decorated with deep fringes and tassels. Many of them were made with two or more layers to add to the decorations of the ceremony.

From the Middle East, umbrellas and their use spread to Egypt, European countries, and to America. In the early 1700s, Manus of Paris, one of the early

European umbrella makers, is said to have invented a parasol that could be folded and carried to protect its users from the sun or the rain. Most of his customers were women.



Then during the last half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, umbrella makers began to produce umbrellas that were more rugged and weatherproof, and men began to use them more often.

Umbrellas came to America in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The historical record mentions them being used in Windsor, Connecticut, in 1740, and other sources mention them in 1771 Philadelphia. The Essex Institute in Salem, Massachusetts has a large collection of mostly American old parasols

and umbrellas.

Fabric used to fashion these old umbrellas included cotton, linen, silk, and alpaca. Hat makers often custom made 19<sup>th</sup> century parasols by covering the frames with fabric that matched the outfits of their customers. Paris parasol fashions often influenced American parasol fashions. Umbrella makers often used silk of every color for umbrella covers and lined it white or pastel satins. They often added a painted border of bright flowers around the margin of the shade. They used broad fringes, lace, and fine embroideries to edge parasols.

Umbrella makers fashioned the frameworks of these early umbrellas from whalebone or metal, and the shafts were usually wood, cane, or rattan. Handles were made from woods including ebony, and ivory and Malacca and they were often decorated with leaves or other carvings

Franklin News-Herald, August 10, 1985, page 6



1990s



Ancient Chinese women used parasols as part of their wardrobes and in their social interactions. Women in ancient Greece and Rome carried parasols to protect themselves from the sun. The word “parasol” come from the Old Italian “parasole” to shield, and “sole”, sun. During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, fashionable European ladies carried parasols as part of their outfits and used them as decorative sunshades.



## When Your Umbrella Turns Upside Down...



### The Umbrella Fixer

In April 1991, Eli Aghen of S. Frankford and Sons, Umbrella Repair, Philadelphia, was head of umbrella repair. Eli's mother married into Samuel Frankford's family, who started making and fixing umbrellas in Philadelphia in 1898.

Eli said that in the old days, Frankford and Sons, traveling umbrella repairmen gave them plenty of competition. When a person with a broken umbrella heard the umbrella repairman's chant announcing his umbrella repair services, he or she would grab their broken umbrella and rush out into the street with it. The umbrella man would fix it right there. He would replace a broken rib, sew one some new tips, or whatever it needed.

The umbrella man disappeared into history with the ice man and the ragman, and Eli believes part of the reason he disappeared was the fading away of America's old manufacturing economy. When most American umbrellas were made in the

United States, their parts were alike. With a fistful of spare ribs, the umbrella man could fix nearly every broken umbrella he encountered. In the 1990s, umbrellas came from all over and Eli said that “every manufacturer is 1/16 inch off from every other manufacturer.”

The modern parts that didn't match were the reason that S. Frankford and Sons needed an entire cellarful of broken frames that they could use for parts. They gave trade-in's on broken umbrellas, stripping over the covers and saving the frames for parts.

Frankford and Sons fixed regular umbrellas, beach umbrellas, patio umbrellas, and even antique whalebone-framed umbrellas dating back to the Civil War. People from all over the country sent Frankford and Sons their treasured broken umbrellas to fix. Some people who brought broken umbrellas in to be fixed on a rainy day, often walked out with a new umbrella instead of waiting about three weeks for Eli to fix the old one.

People buying new umbrellas had several choices, including elegant umbrellas with swan's head handles, umbrellas with ruffles, and umbrellas with paisley borders. They could choose folding umbrellas that opened to full size, kid umbrellas featuring Mickey Mouse and little boys' umbrellas featuring football players. They could choose clear plastic dog-walking umbrellas to keep a dog dry on its walk and patio umbrellas made of a four-ply laminate that would not tear.

S. Frankford and Sons have been located on Frankford Avenue in the Frankford section of Philadelphia since the 1920s. The storefront headquarters have 1940s looking tan wallpaper on the wall and 1920s looking tan wallpaper on the ceiling with travel posters papering over the cracks. They also have a factory that handles big orders out in the suburbs.

Eli said that one reason the Frankford doorman's umbrella, a 16-panel, 16-rib model with a 53-inch wingspread, costs only \$19.90, is that the company doesn't have a fancy showroom in downtown Philadelphia and it is not out to make the last dollar. “What's fair is fair,” he said. He added that a Burberry umbrella with its trade mark tartan would cost \$140 downtown, but only \$40-\$50 at Frankford and Sons.

Salina (Kansas) Journal, April 27, 1991, p. 6

# 2000s



## Unusual Umbrellas, 2006

Instead of complaining about the rain, some people celebrate rain with different umbrellas instead of the ordinary blue and black varieties.

Jodell Egbert owner of Bella Umbrella in Seattle, Washington, rents and sells vintage umbrellas. They go back to the 1880s, when an elegant umbrella or parasol was as important as a pair of shoes or a hat before venturing out into the world.

Jodell Egbert thinks that the tote or regular umbrella that is five dollars and very breakable have ruined the romance of an umbrella. People are used to them and think of them as just throw- a- ways, she says.

Bella Umbrella's umbrellas are colorful, even exotic. One is a white parasol with ostrich feathers. Another is an orange red umbrella lined with rows of ruffles. Another featured a flower pattern. The handles of her umbrellas feature flower shapes and big bubbles and pretend jewels.

Satoko Kobayashi's Pare Umbrella of Seattle imported a range of umbrellas from Tokyo, Japan. In Tokyo, umbrellas are an important part of a person's wardrobe and they vary in color and design according to the season of the year.

"I came here from Tokyo about ten years ago and the first thing I noticed is that there aren't any good umbrellas in Seattle," Satoko said.

Satoko sells her umbrellas online and at boutiques up and down the West Coast of the United States. Her umbrella's featured fancy patterns of many colored glasses, stripes, polka dots, leaves, vines, and flowers. Some have bamboo handles. "I have a feeling that people who have umbrellas like this feel really good on a rainy day," she said.

Her customers range in age from high school students to women in their 50s and 60s.

Appeal Democrat, March 5, 2006, page 39. Marysville, California.





## Flags and Umbrellas: Astronaut John Glenn, April 6, 2017



A horse drawn wagon carries astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn to his resting place in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Thursday, April 6, 2017.

NASA Photograph

## Hospital Umbrellas, November 24, 2017



More than 100 umbrellas in flower prints like the walking track at the H. Odell Weeks Activities recognizing National Hospice Month, November 24, 2017. Agape Hospice of Aiken, South Carolina, sponsored the umbrellas. Each of the umbrellas were made of material printed to look like poppies or daisies. Their colors featured blues, yellows, and reds. Each umbrella celebrated the life of the 115 people receiving hospice care in Aiken during 2017. Aiken Standard, November 24, 2017, p. 3



# Bridal Showers and Bridal Umbrellas



The term “bridal shower” may come from the custom in Victorian times of putting small presents inside parasols or umbrellas, which when opened, would “shower” the bride-to-be with gifts. The first use in print of the word “shower” with this meaning may be in the June 4, 1904, issue of the Grand Rapids Michigan Evening Press, referring to “The ‘shower parties’....” Not all cultures have Bridal Showers. Currently the United States, Canada and Australia are the three largest countries that take part in this tradition.



Wedding day rain is a sign of good luck in many cultures. Rain on a wedding day is the sign of many good things including cleansing, unity, renewal, and tears. Rain can also be used to capture artistic photos with rain drops. Umbrellas can also provide fun.



Even when it isn't raining, brides and grooms use umbrellas at their weddings. Sometimes they use them to protect themselves and their guests from the sun.



A pagoda parasol adds a little Asian flare to your wedding day. Nowadays, these elegant looking pagoda shaped umbrellas are being used more often. They are charming as fashion umbrellas, featuring curved contours and pointed tops, but they are not rain umbrellas!



# Chapter Ten: Umbrellas All Around Us

## Umbrella Jokes



What goes up when the rain comes down? An umbrella.

What's grey, stands in a river when it rains and doesn't get wet? An elephant with an umbrella!

Why do people carry umbrellas? Because umbrellas can't walk.

Did you hear about the umbrella factory that shut down because there was too much overhead?

Why does Santa have a really big umbrella? Because of all the rain, dear.

When does a detective carry an umbrella? When he's under cover.



Why would you want a chicken proof umbrella? To use when the weather is fowl.

Why do people in cities often carry umbrellas? Because umbrellas can't walk.

What do you call Paddington without an umbrella? A drizzly bear.

What do you call a parrot with an umbrella? Polly unsaturated.

Why did the man put his umbrella away and open his wallet? He was hoping for some change in the weather.

Why did the umbrella sit? Because it couldn't find an umbrella stand.

## Polar Bear Plot



A polar bear in a large zoo,  
Growled and groaned and cried boo hoo,  
I need help reaching my fish,  
An umbrella is my big wish.  
Zoo visitors passing by,  
Heard the polar bear sob and sigh,  
They thought him quite a nice fella,

Pushed the fish with their umbrellas.



The polar bear thought it great fun,  
To snatch their umbrellas and run,  
Pile them in all directions,  
To add to his large collection.

## Umbrella Sharing



I don't want to share my umbrella with you, because  
you'd have to get closer to me!

Is there ever, ever any good time?  
To share an umbrella with a porcupine?  
Make sure that before you do you agree.  
To share it very, very, carefully!



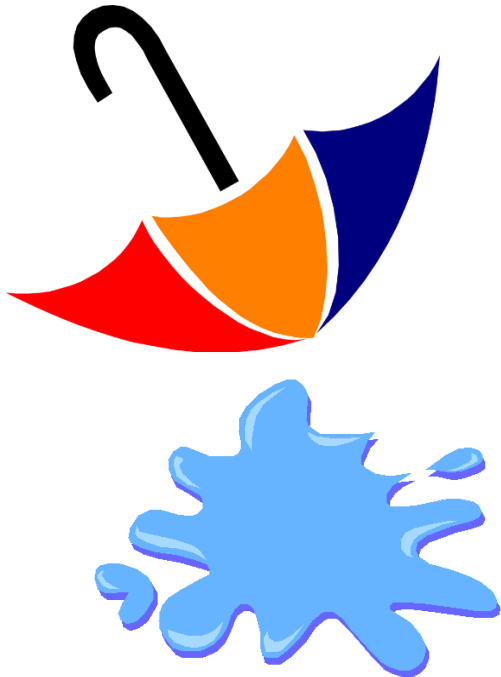


This Fella Needs an Umbrella,  
Or Does He?



Yellow duck needs an umbrella,  
To walk a mile into town,  
The pouring rain will compel a  
Yellow Duck to try not to drown.

It's raining pink cats and blue dogs,  
The red umbrella isn't strong,  
Now it's raining horses and hogs,  
Their tails are so extra-long,  
They wrap around the very top  
And the umbrella splashes down.  
Water flows in a handle hop  
That makes Yellow duck start to frown.  
Yellow Duck thinks for a minute  
His thoughts clear, not in a muddle  
There is no mystery to it,  
Leave the umbrella in the puddle!



# Umbrella Superstitions



Told Around, but not necessarily true...

If you carry an umbrella under your arm, that means someone's eye is on you.

If you put your umbrella in a rack, that means that someone else may claim or steal it.

If you open an umbrella inside your house when it isn't raining, you are asking rain to start.

If you walk into your house with an open umbrella, you will bring the rain with you.

Putting an open or closed umbrella on your bed is bad luck and could be deadly.

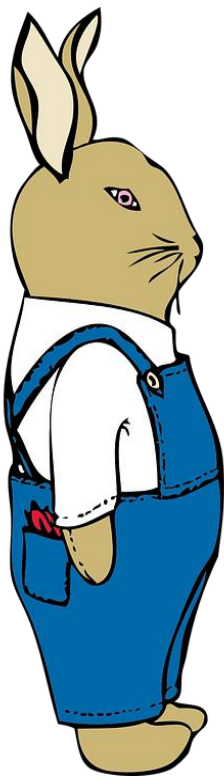
If you accidentally drop your umbrella on the ground, don't pick it up! Someone else has to pick it up for you or you will have bad luck.

To get married under an umbrella is good luck for the bride and groom, because it symbolizes how they shelter and protect each other as a married couple.

If you carry an umbrella with you, it won't rain. If you don't carry an umbrella with you, the rain will fall in sheets!

# Chapter Eleven: Umbrella Stories

## Hoppy Rabbit Explains Umbrellas



Hoppy Rabbit

One rainy day in May, Hoppy Rabbit and Buster Rabbit hopped and jumped to the Hollow Tree school. Both of them had left their umbrella home, and they both dripped water when they flung open the front door and jumped inside.

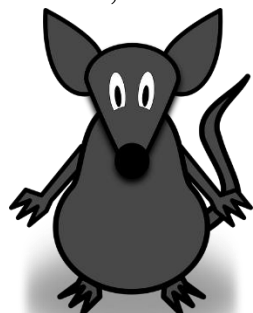
As soon as Hoppy Rabbit was inside the Hollow Tree School, safe and dry from the rain, he said to Mr. Rufus Rat, the janitor. “What has happened that you wanted me to come in with Buster?”

“Miss Mouse isn’t here!” cried Mr. Rufus Rat.

“Hurray!” cried Buster.

“Quiet, please,” ordered Mr. Rufus Rat. “Miss Mouse called me, soon after I opened the school this morning. She said that her umbrella blew away and

she had to chase it. She asked me to call you, Hoppy Rabbit, to come and take over her class. And I was just going to call when you came along. This is lucky for me!”



Mr. Rufus Rat

“Urn,” said Hoppy Rabbit, twitching his pink nose. “I am not so sure it is lucky. I don’t know what lessons to hear.”

“Then don’t hear any lessons,” laughed Buster. “Give us a nature lesson. That will be fun.”

“A nature lesson?” asked Hoppy Rabbit..

“Yes,” said Buster as he looked at the rain outside the school. “Can’t you tell us how umbrellas happened?”



Buster Rabbit

“They didn’t exactly happen,” said Hoppy Rabbit. “Somebody made them happen. But I can tell you about umbrellas.”

Soon all the animal boys and girls sat in the school assembly auditorium, waiting for Hoppy Rabbit to begin talking. While they waited, they talked loudly. Jimmie the Duck quacked. Penny the Pig oinked. Cecelia the Cow mooed and Harold the Horse neighed. Corky the Chicken clucked and Robert the Rooster crowed. Nan the Goat maaaed, and Sam the Sheep baaaed. Even Rufus Rat, the , squeaked.

Hoppy Rabbit cleared his throat, but nobody heard him. “Attention! Your attention please,” he said. Still nobody heard him. “Mr. Rufus Rat, would you squeak into this microphone so everyone will know I am ready to talk?” Hoppy asked him.

Mr. Rufus Rat squeaked into the microphone, but no one heard him and the animal boys and girls kept talking. Finally, Hoppy Rabbit nudged Buster Rabbit and Buster blew his toy whistle into the microphone. It squeaked a dozen times louder than Rufus Rat. The tweettttt noise the whistle made bounded around the auditorium and through the voices of the animal boys and girls. Everyone grew quiet, so quiet that they could hear Hoppy Rabbit’s nose twitching.

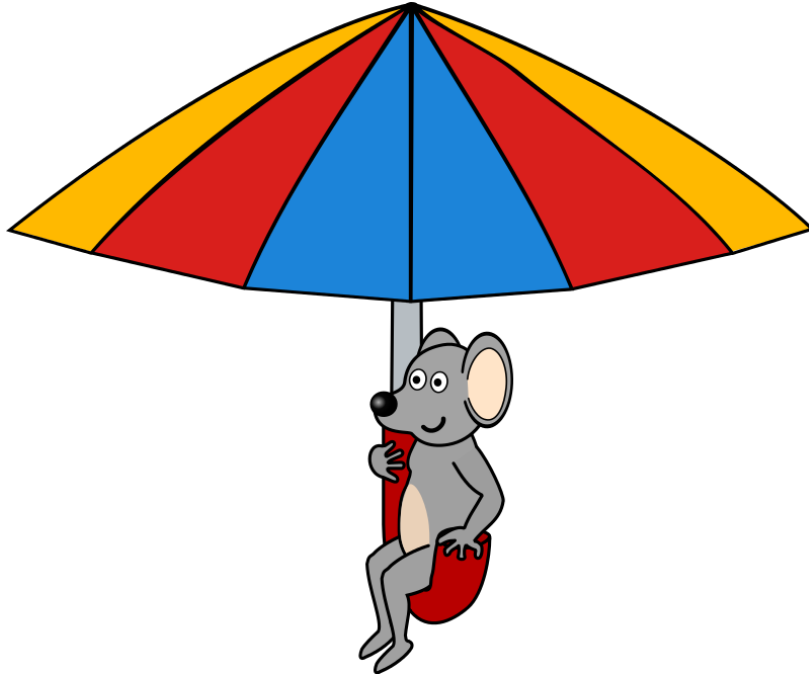
Hoppy Rabbit said, “Long before we had umbrellas in our land, they were used in hot countries by the people there to shade them from the hot sun.”

After people from cold countries traveled in hot lands and saw how umbrellas or parasols were carried to keep off the hot sun, umbrellas happened here. People in cold lands came home and made some umbrellas for themselves.”

Hoppy Rabbit hopped from one foot to the other, like he was getting tired, which he was. “After seeing how umbrellas or parasols could keep off the sun’s hot rays then somebody got the idea that umbrellas might be made to keep off the rain and snow. Some were made, but they were not like the umbrellas we have today. They were big and clumsy and sometimes they suddenly came apart in the rain.”

“My umbrella didn’t come apart in the rain, but it did run away in the rain,” a squeaky voice said. “But I finally caught it, and it’s time for everyone to go back to their classes.” Miss Mouse floated into the auditorium doorway, holding a rainbow umbrella.

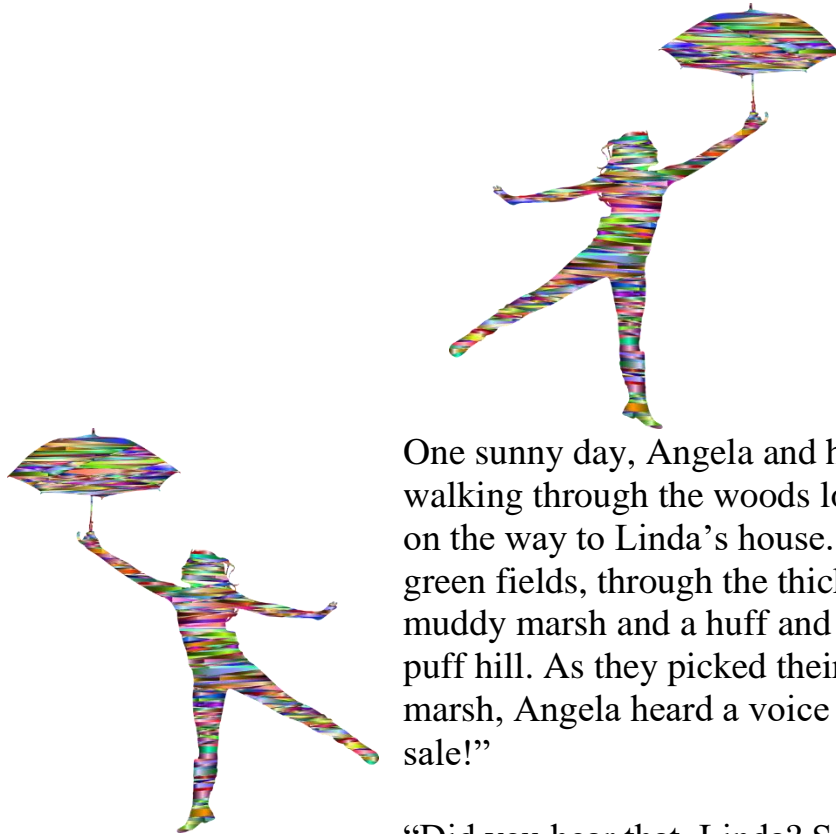




Buster carried Miss Mouse's wet umbrella back to the classroom, while she walked beside it to keep it on the ground. Hoppy Rabbit hopped out of the back door, happy he didn't have to talk about umbrellas any longer! He jumped at least three feet off the ground when he saw that the sun had come out from behind the clouds. Miss Mouse could hardly wait to tell her class about her umbrella adventure and the rainbow that she saw when Hoppy Rabbit opened the school door!



# Angela and Linda's Unusual Umbrella



One sunny day, Angela and her friend Linda were walking through the woods looking at the clear blue sky on the way to Linda's house. Linda lived across the green fields, through the thick woods, a skip across the muddy marsh and a huff and puff climb up the huff and puff hill. As they picked their way carefully through the marsh, Angela heard a voice calling, "Umbrellas for sale!"

"Did you hear that, Linda? Someone's yelling umbrellas for sale!"

Angela stopped so fast that her feet squished in the mud.

Linda said, "Who would be in the marsh selling umbrellas, especially on this sunshiny day?"

"Who indeed? It's Willy the Umbrella Man, of course!"

Angela looked around carefully, from left to right and back to center and then she saw him. A man with a long black beard sat leaning against a sycamore tree. Scattered around him were tin pots and pans and six wide open umbrellas. The red, yellow, pink, green, purple, orange, and blue colors made a rainbow circle.

“Are you really Willy the Umbrella Man? What are you doing out here in the marsh? It’s not raining!”

“The rain is waiting like a cow waits to moo,” Willy said. “It might not happen right away, but it will happen. And when it does, I have umbrellas for sale.”

He sang,  
When the rain begins to fall,  
Come buy my umbrellas one and all,  
If you want a very special one,  
I have a magic umbrella for the sun.  
If you need magic again and again,  
I have an unusual one for sun and rain.

“It doesn’t look like rain,” Linda told him.

“It doesn’t have to look like rain for it to rain, the Willy said. Raindrops can be quiet and small, just like people. Just like little girls.”

Angela said, “It doesn’t feel like rain either.”

“The cow will moo,” Willy said. He gathered up his umbrellas. Let’s climb to the top of the hill and see.”

They climbed to the top of the huff and puff hill and sat and saw. Angela looked down at the wild flowers blooming the woods. Linda. looked at the cattails growing in the marsh. They laid on their backs and watched the white sailed cloud ships sailing across the blue-sky sea. When the sun got too warm, Willy set up his magic umbrella for the sun and they sat in its shade and this time they saw ants climbing up and down grass blade mountains and butterflies fluttering around the meadow daisies.

Suddenly, a whoosh of wind blew the magic umbrella over and over and it started rolling down the huff and puff hill. Angela saw that now dark clouds covered the white sailed cloud ships. Linda heard thunder booms and lightning flashes. Willy ran after his magic umbrella, leaving his rainbow umbrellas behind with the girls.

“What should we do?” Linda cried, as the wind blew the rainbow umbrellas past the girls.

“Find the unusual umbrella,” Angela told her. “Willy said there was another one out there. You know, the one for the sun and the rain.”

“The rainbow umbrellas all followed Willy down the hill, so the unusual umbrella must be the only one left up here,” Linda said.

“We have to find it. The storm’s getting worse,” Angela told her.

The wind blew harder and the rain beat against them as they pushed their way down the hill and into the woods. “There’s no unusual umbrella in here,” Linda said “How can there be? It’s too wet and the wind is blowing too hard.”

“It’s got to be here somewhere,” Angela said.

Angela and Linda kept walking through the rainy woods. Their hair dripped water. Water ran down their forehead to their noses and down their noses to their chins. Rain turned their clothes washing machine wet and their shoes sloshed water every step they took. Angela and Linda were searched for the unusual umbrella. They searched for the sun. They searched for something dry.

Finally, Angela spotted a blurry round umbrella shape under an oak tree. She grabbed Linda’s arm. “That looks like something solid,” she said, pointing to the round shape.

“That can’t be it,” Linda said. “It doesn’t look like an umbrella.”

“It looks like we can crawl underneath it and not get any wetter,” Angela said. “Let’s crawl!”

They crawled under the round umbrella shape blurred by the rain and sat and watched sheets of rain fall all around it, but not under it.

“What are we sitting under?” Linda asked Angela as they watched the rain drops slow down to a trickle.

“I don’t know,” Angela said. “Let’s wait until the rain dies down to a few sprinkles and we can crawl out from under here and find out.”

“Where do you think the rainbow umbrellas landed?” Linda wondered.

“We’ll probably never know,” Angela said.

They waited a few more minutes and the rain shower moved on, leaving tiny rainbow drops floating in the air.

“Come on!” Angela pulled Linda’s still soggy sleeve and they crawled out from under the shadowy umbrella shape.

“What is that thing we were hiding under?” Linda asked.

“I think it’s a giant mushroom,” Angela said, peering out from under it.



“These sure are pretty mushrooms,” Linda said.



Angela studied the sky. “Very pretty. But we’d better get out from under this one and get home before it rains some more. Maybe we can find the rainbow umbrellas on the way home”

Angela and Linda crawled out from under the mushroom and hurried off through the woods towards home. They were almost to the edge of the woods when Angela stopped suddenly. “Look in that tree over there,” she said to Linda.

“What is it?” Linda wanted to know.

“Look!” Angela pointed.

Linda looked and there the rainbow umbrellas were, fastened firmly in the branches of a tree.



Linda and Angela picked the umbrellas from the tree like they were picking apples and carried them all of the way back to Linda’s house. They searched for Willy so they

could give the rainbow umbrellas back to him. They went back into the woods every day to play under the unusual umbrella in the spring, summer, and fall. When the winter snows buried the unusual umbrella, they rode into the woods on their sleds and carried snow shovels on their sleds to dig a tunnel in the snow to reach the unusual umbrella. Then they made snow angels under it before they went home. Every year, they look for Willy and his magic umbrella, but they never saw him or his umbrella again.

## How Many Umbrellas Can an Elephant Carry?



Larry Longstreet lived next door to the zoo, close enough to hear the animals talking and walking and close enough to visit them every day. He especially enjoyed visiting Elmer the Elephant in the elephant house. He visited Elmer so often at the elephant house that they grew to be good friends. Larry talked to Elmer's keeper Jasper Jenkins so much that they grew to be good friends. Jasper let Larry rake and throw hay to Elmer

and feed him peanuts and apples.

Eventually, the director of the zoo gave Larry permission to take Elmer for walks around the zoo. "Elmer belonged to a circus, so he is used to walking around and seeing people," the director told Larry and Jasper. You may take him for a walk, but Jasper must go along."



"What do you walk him with? Should we put him on a leash?" Larry asked.

Jasper laughed. "There isn't a big enough leash to hold Elmer."

"What can we use then? A rope?" Larry wondered.

"When he was in the circus, his trainer used an umbrella to guide him. We can try an umbrella if we can find one big enough," Jasper said.

Jasper searched for a big umbrella all through the zoo, but all he found were medium sized umbrellas. Larry ran home and searched through his closet and his mom and dad's closet, but all he found was a little umbrella.

When Larry returned to the zoo, the zoo director reached into his office and handed them a large blue umbrella.

"This is the biggest umbrella I could find. It should cover most of Elmer when it rains," he said.

Larry looked doubtfully at the umbrella. "Let's go for a walk before it rains," he said.

Larry and Jasper poked Elmer in the ribs with the big blue umbrella. "Come on Elmer, let's go for a walk," he said.

Larry and Jasper grabbed their umbrellas and jabbed Elmer in the ribs with the large blue umbrella.

"Has Elmer always lived at the zoo?" Larry asked Jasper.

"Elmer's from Africa," Jasper told him. When he was young, he was captured and brought to America, where he performed in a circus for several years. Then when the circus closed down, his owner brought him to our zoo. He has walked a lot in his life."



"Maybe he's tired of walking by now," Larry said.

"Elmer likes to walk. He especially likes to walk and play in the rain," Jasper said.

Jasper looked in front of him, behind him, and on either side of him. "Don't tell anyone, but sometimes he comes home with me to spend the night."

Right away, Larry knew that he wanted Elmer to come home with him and spent the night at his house. "Does the director let you take Elmer home very often?" Larry asked Jasper.

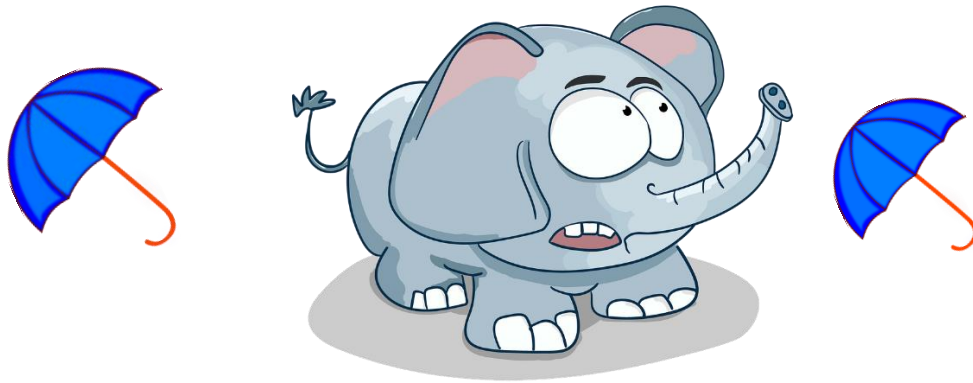
"At least once a month," Jasper said. He's pretty tame and he likes our house. He likes to take a bath in the bathtub. And he loves umbrellas."



Larry held out his hand. "I feel raindrops," he said.

Elmer trumpeted and shook his head up and down. He grabbed the blue umbrella, opened it, and held it over his head.

Then, before Larry could open his umbrella, Elmer grabbed it with his trunk and opened it with a snap, and held it up with his tail.



Larry laughed. "It's not raining very hard, so you can use both umbrellas, Elmer. Jasper and I can use this one."

Suddenly, the rain grew from a trickle to a waterfall. "Maybe we'll need the umbrellas after all," Larry said.

"I think Elmer needs the other umbrella," Jasper said. "He's a lot bigger than we are."



The rain grew steadier and the wind blew stronger. Larry took the blue umbrella and struggled with the wind and rain trying to snatch it away from him. Elmer grabbed the umbrella and held on tight.

Jasper shouted, "Hurry up. We need to get back to the zoo before we melt away."

"You're right," Larry said. "It doesn't look like Elmer is going to share his umbrellas, so come on. We'd better run for it."

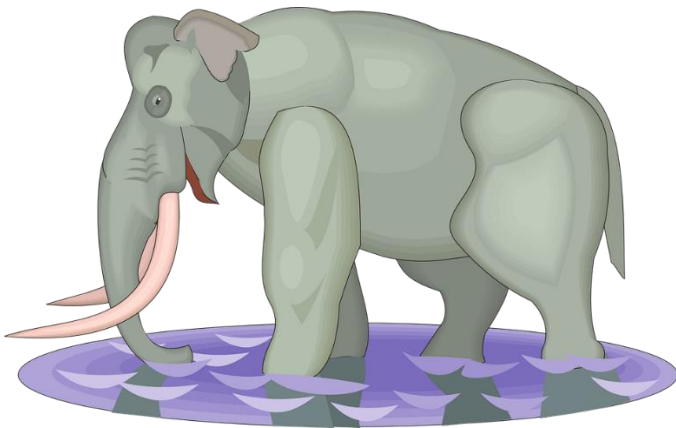


“I think Elmer will share his umbrella,” Jasper said. “He usually shares pretty well.”

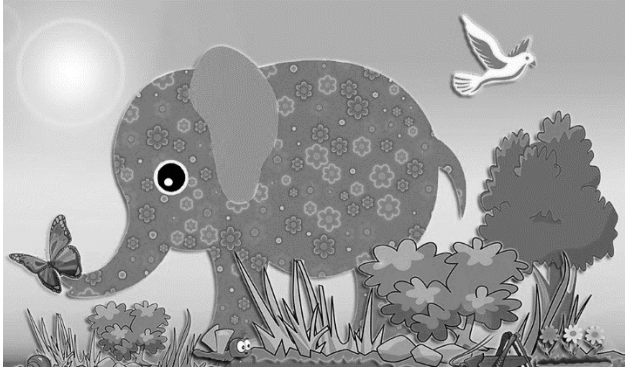
Elmer must have heard what Jasper said, because he turned around and handed the big blue umbrella to Larry. Larry had to fight the wind which tugged and pulled at the umbrella, but he managed to hold onto it before the wind blew it away.



Elmer handed Jasper’s umbrella to him and Jasper fought the wind to hold on to his umbrella. The wind blew so fiercely that it tumbled Elmer away from Jasper and Larry. Elmer tumbled and blew and blew and tumbled. Finally, he caught a mud puddle as it blew by and stood in the middle of it to keep it from blowing away.





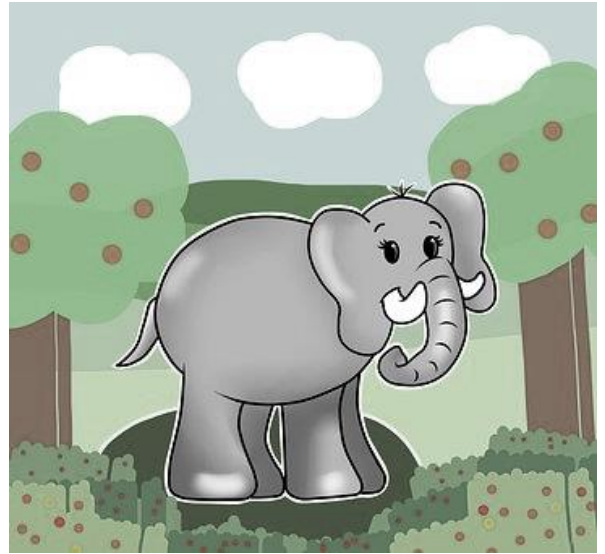


Elmer grabbed a butterfly tumbling in the wind and balanced it on the tip of his trunk.

The wind blew Elmer into an apple orchard and he ate apples for lunch.

Elmer ate his lunch

by himself, but he remembered the fun times he had eating lunch with Jasper and Larry. He felt very lonely and he wanted to go back home to the zoo. Elmer started walking toward the zoo. He was walking along swinging his trunk back and forth, looking at the cracks in the sidewalk when BUMP! He suddenly collided with a gray tank. Elmer looked up at the gray tank with a red hair ribbon on top of her hair and another on the tip of her tail.



“Why, you’re an elephant,” he said. “I thought you were a tank.”

“I’m not a tank, the elephant said. “I’m Emily and you surely can see that I am an elephant.”

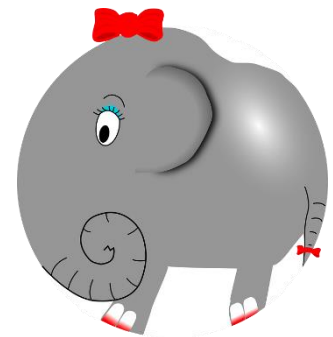
“I wasn’t looking at you,” Elmer said. “I was looking at the ground. You just felt like a tank.”

“Why were you looking at the ground?” Emily wanted to know.

“I was looking at the ground because I’m sad. I miss my friends and I want to go home to the zoo. The wind blew me away and I don’t know how to get back.”

“Oh, I know where the zoo is,” Emily said. “Follow me.”

Elmer followed Emily for what seemed to him to be miles. Finally, he felt so tired that he sat down with a thump in the middle of the sidewalk. “I’m tired,” he said. He felt so tired and sad that a tear slid down his long trunk and dangled at the tip where the butterfly had rested just a few hours ago.



“I have an idea. Let’s stop at my house for a snack,” Emily said.

Elmer brushed away the tear from the tip of his nose and shook his four aching feet, one by one. Puffing and Panting, he followed Emily to her house.



Instead of a snack, Emily’s mother fixed them fruit salad and a green grass casserole. Emily’s father told Elmer that the zoo was just two blocks down the sidewalk. Elmer felt so happy to hear this that he had a second plateful of green grass casserole.

After they finished eating, Emily took Elmer out to the garage behind her house and showed him her scooter. “You can ride it,” she told him. “I want you to ride it the rest of the way to your home at the zoo. I’ll come and get it tomorrow, so I know for sure I’ll see you again.

“Thank you, Emily. But I don’t have any scooter for you to ride. How can I pay you back?”

“Friends don’t have to pay each other back. Besides, you can show me around the zoo when I come to get my scooter.”

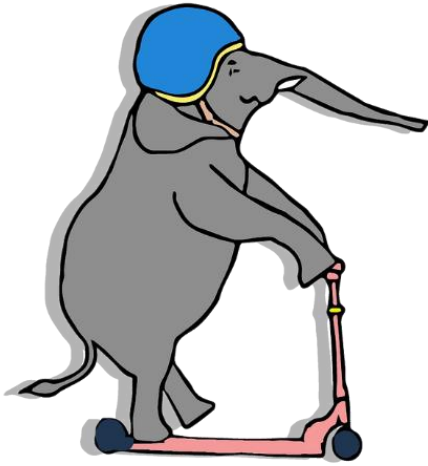
“I put some warm water in the tub for you to take a quick bath,” Emily’s mother said.

“Then you can hop on the scooter and scoot home.”

The warm water felt so good on Elmer’s skin that he almost forgot about scooting home, but at last he climbed out of the tub, dried off with a fluffy bath towel, and walked downstairs to tell Emily and her family goodbye.



Emily handed him a helmet. “You have to wear this in case you fall off of the scooter,” she told Elmer. Elmer fastened the helmet under his chin, and waved goodbye to Emily and her mother and father. “See you tomorrow,” he shouted to Emily, and pumping his feet to get the scooter started.



Soon, Elmer was speeding down the sidewalk toward the zoo. The rain had slowed down to a drip, drip, drip like Emily's mother turning off the faucet when she filled his tub with water. The wind slapped his face and swung his trunk back and forth. Then it changed its mind and trailed gentle fingers across his trunk like his mother did when she came to visit him from her zoo in the next state. Next, it poked him in the back like it wanted his attention, like his father used to do. He'd have

to ride the scooter and visit them. He knew he could ride the scooter all of the way and back, but he'd have to ask Emily if he could borrow it.

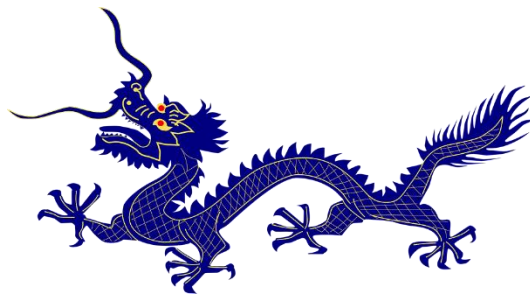
Elmer was so busy thinking about his trip to visit his parents and fighting back against the wind and rain that he didn't notice Larry and Jasper walking beside him until Larry reached over and tapped his helmet.

"Where have you been? We were very worried about you," Larry said.

Elmer took off his helmet, letting the wind sway both his ears at the same time. He hung the helmet over the scooter handle and steered the scooter toward the zoo. It had been a good day, and even though the wind had blown him away from his home and friends, it had also brought him back with new friend and the promise of many new adventures. He patted his old friends Jasper and Larry on the back with his trunk and trumpeted his joy. By the time they reached the gates of the zoo, the rain had stopped and a rainbow welcomed them back home.



## The Umbrella Games



Once upon a long ago, dragons and dinosaurs lived on a green planet called Spero. Spero's purple-polka dotted sun shone on forests of purple trees that touched the pink clouds in the orange sky, and grassy yellow meadows. Cool blue rivers wound their way through the purple tree forests and many different kinds of birds, animals, and fish lived on Spero.

There were pastures full of orange striped gringle grass to eat so that no one would go hungry and



every other tree in the purple forest had a green dot, which meant that it was a lemonade tree and thirsty dragons and dinosaurs could drink as much lemonade as they wanted.

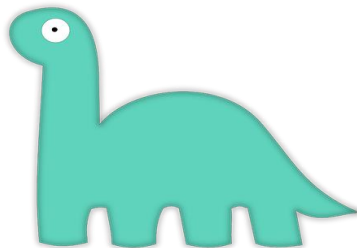
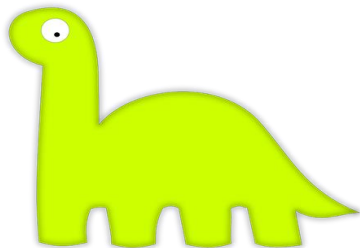
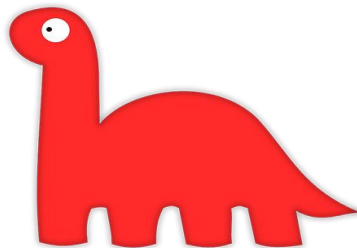
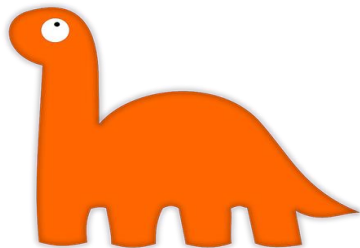
The dragons and dinosaurs ruled Spero because they were many different colors and shapes and they could roar so loud that the mountains threw back their roars into the valleys.





The baby dragons and dinosaurs could sit on the mountain tops and often did to play with the clouds and look down at the valleys and roar. When they grew up they were too big to sit on the mountain tops, so some days they played in the forests and valleys and other days they would take their umbrellas to the mountain tops.

At the top they would launch their umbrellas into the wind and ride the wind currents down to the valleys. Other days the dragons and the dinosaurs would run umbrella races with each other to see who could fly the wind currents the fastest with their umbrellas. The losers treated the winners to special cakes made of gringle grass so everyone felt like winners.



For many centuries the dinosaurs and dragons balanced each other with the same colors and the same meadows where they ate their meals of gringle grass and drank their water jets from the cool, blue rivers or lemonade from the lemonade trees. They enjoyed their

umbrella races and celebrated both winning and losing with gringle grass cakes and lemonade trees. Then one day, one dragon and one dinosaur changed the tradition.

Dalfinia the Dragon decided that she wanted to go up instead of down in the 840<sup>th</sup> Umbrella Races.

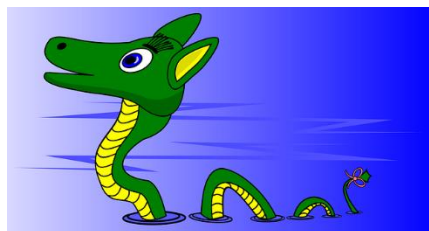


She threw her umbrella into the wind currents that spiraled upwards into the clouds instead of the downdrafts that tumbled into the valley



“I’m going exploring.” she shouted to the dinosaurs and dragons who grew smaller and smaller as the pink clouds and the orange sky meadows grew close enough to be nose to nose with her.

“I’m going with you,” someone said in her ear. Dalfina peered around the edge of her umbrella and she saw a red dinosaur made a color clash against the orange sky. The red dinosaur held his umbrella under his arm, because he didn’t need it to reach the sky. He just had to stretch his neck and his head poked through several orange clouds.



Dalfina the Dragon

“You don’t have to go with me. You’re already here,” Dalfina said. “What’s your name?”

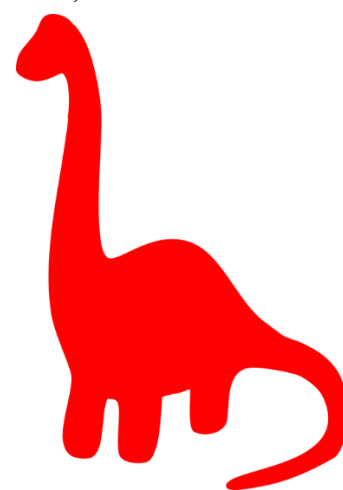
“My name’s Dwayne and I’m a dinosaur. I ‘m tired of racing the same way all of the time, so I

decided to put my umbrella on my tail instead of over my head. When I did that, my head, instead of my umbrella, went through the clouds.”

“Let’s keep traveling through the clouds,” Dalfina said. “Who knows what we might find.”

“I’ll walk, you fly,” Dwayne told Dalfina and they set off to explore the orange sky meadows.

In one meadow they discovered rows of flowers with long, skinny arms covered with balls of fluffy fuzz. “I’ve seen those growing in the valleys,” Dalfina said. “I think they are called Lion Flowers. Under the purple polka dotted sun, they dance in yellow wind woven waves across yellow meadows. Golden sheets of spring!



Dwayne the Dinosaur

In the late summer and fall, they use their lion spears to scatter fluffy umbrellas of seeds in the wind. They are the ribs of the umbrella. Lion Flowers are lasting. “

Dalfina and Dwayne spent the rest of the day traveling through The Meadows of the Lion Flowers.



As they traveled through the last Meadow of Lion Flowers, Dalfina picked two Lion Flowers. She kept one and handed one to Dwayne. “Let’s take two of them down to the valleys with us and show them to our friends. Maybe they’ll want to come up here with us and pick more when they see their beauty.”

“Maybe they’ll want to pick all of them and we won’t see them growing again,” Dwayne said, sniffing his Lion Flower and then tucking it under his umbrella.

The walked along in silence for a time, Dalfina holding her umbrella close to her head to protect herself from the purple polka dot sun. Dwayne walked ahead of her, his umbrella still tucked under his arm, his red head and neck clashing with the orange sky.

Suddenly, it seemed to Dalfina that the purple polka dotted sun exploded into tongues of crimson flame that melted the sky into a rainbow stew. A Fire Breathing Dragon jumped from behind a pink cloud the size of a mountain.



“What do you say to a Fire Breathing Dragon?” Dwayne shivered.

“After you shield your face with your umbrella, you say hello,” Dalfina told him.

She put her umbrella in front of her face and then she peeked around it. “Hello, Fire Breathing Dragon. My name is Dalfina and this is Dwayne. What’s your name?”

“If I must have a name I am known as Delores. You are not welcome in my Pink Cloud Mountain Kingdom. Why have you come here?”

“At the Umbrella Races we decided to ride the wind upward to the mountains instead of down into the valleys. Our umbrellas brought us through the Meadows of the Lion Flowers and now to your Pink Cloud Mountain Kingdom,” Dalfina told her.

“We mean you no harm,” Dwayne told Delores. “We’re just exploring this beautiful mountain and sky world.”

“Others will follow you, whether you invite them or not. Umbrellas will cover the orange sky and pink clouds and even the purple polka dot sun. Umbrella races will cover my Pink Mountain Kingdom. You will do me harm.”

“Whosssh!” Delores darted a long tongue of flame at Dalfina and Dwayne, who both put up their umbrellas and ran away from Delores as fast as they could. “It’s a good thing we got a lot of umbrella practice in the umbrella races,” Dalfina panted.

She noticed that Dwayne had his umbrella over his head now instead of around his tail. They raced through the Meadows of the Lion Flowers, with Delores, spitting flames close enough to singe their umbrellas. Finally, they reached the first of the Meadows of the Lion Flowers.

“Is she gone yet?” Dwayne panted. “That Delores is a fast flyer.”

“She’s not gone yet. She’s right behind us. “We’d better ride the downturn winds and run home.” Delfina said. “Hurry up before she catches up to us!”

They quickly adjusted their umbrellas for downward travel and floated through soft pink cloud clusters and orange sky fields. Down, down, down, they floated until they reached the mountain tops where the last umbrella race had started not so very long ago. The dragons and dinosaurs saw them tumbling down and started to cheer. “They’re back!” they cried. Delfina and Dwayne are back!”

“Hurry! Put up your umbrellas so we can make a wall to protect us,” Delfina shouted. “There’s a Fire Breathing dragon chasing us!”

Alarmed, everyone snapped up their umbrellas, creating a protective canopy large enough to cover the entire planet Spiro. The last umbrella snapped up just in time. Delores, the Fire Breathing Dragon hovered over the mountain of pink clouds that covered the sky of Spero.



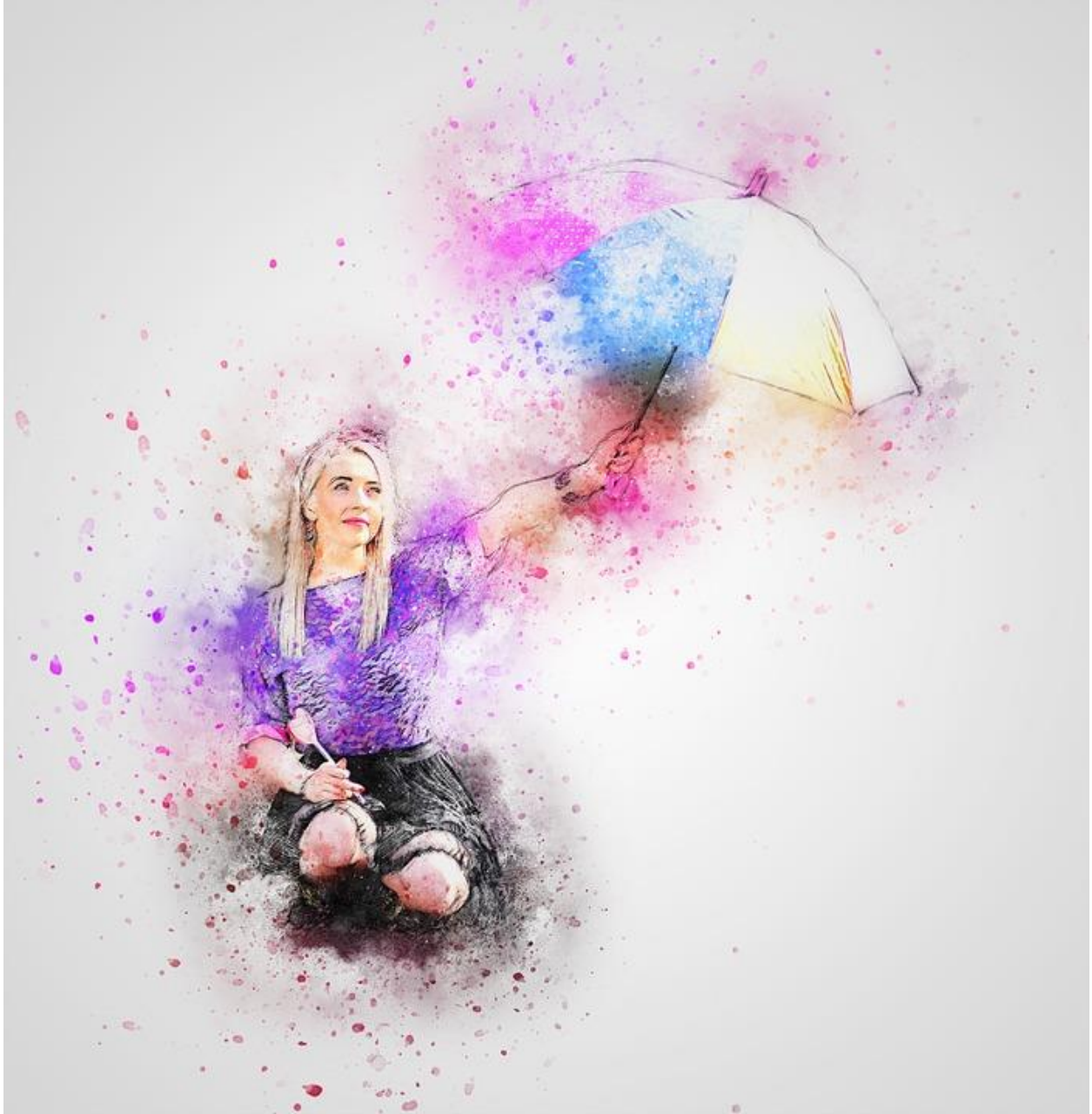
One of the dragons looked above his umbrella.  
“She’s a dragon. She’s one of us. She’s nothing to be afraid of!”

One of the dinosaurs looked above her umbrella.  
“She’s a dragon. She looks a little like us and talks like us. She’s nothing to be afraid of!”

Everyone but Delfina and Dwayne put down their umbrellas and ran to meet Delores.

Delfina and Dwayne stayed behind to guard the umbrellas and snap them open again.

## Chapter Twelve: Umbrella Play



The Magic Umbrella



Players

Debby's Mother

The Umbrella Man

Janet's Mother

Janet's Father

Debby

Mrs. Falstaff, the 5th Grade Teacher

Mary

Janet

Paul

Paul's father

Henry the Dog (Henry has such long hair he looks like a mop)

The children are playing on one corner of the stage in a wooden box.

PAUL

I'm tired of playing in the sand! I wish there was something else for us to do.

MARY

We could go swimming.

DEBBY

We can't do that unless there's a grown up with us.

JANET

Why don't we play on the merry-go-round?

PAUL

I get tired of pushing the merry-go-round.

JANET

I'll push this time.

PAUL

You never do. You just say you will and when the time comes to push, you let me do all of the pushing.

MARY

(Pointing) Who's that? (The Umbrella man walks on stage. He is carrying an open umbrella over his head.)

UMBRELLA MAN

Hello there, oh hello there, I say,

Would you like to buy a magic umbrella today?

DEBBY

A magic umbrella? Why is that magic?

UMBRELLA MAN

When you the umbrella it starts to rain.

DEBBY

Are you sure? I never heard of an umbrella like that.

UMBRELLA MAN

All you do is sing: Rain, rain, please come to stay,

I want to use my umbrella today! Then the rain starts.

PAUL

I don't believe it. Show me!

(The children gather around the umbrella man and he closes the umbrella and then opens it again.)

UMBRELLA MAN

Rain, rain, please come to stay,

I want to use my umbrella today.

(He looks up and paper rain falls down on everyone)

See how easy it is.

JANET

I'd like to have an umbrella like that.

PAUL

How much would it cost?

UMBRELLA MAN

I can let you have it for ten pennies, one-tenth of a dollar.

PAUL

(Checking his pockets) I have two pennies.

JANET

I have three.

DEBBY

I have two pennies.

MARY

I have three.

DEBBY

(Collects the pennies and hands them to the Umbrella man) There you are Mr. Umbrella man, ten pennies.

UMBRELLA MAN

I thank you very much indeed,

And may you get all the rain you need!

(He runs off stage jingling the pennies)

DEBBY

I'm going to use the umbrella first.

PAUL

No, me!

MARY

I want a turn.

DEBBY

We can say eeny meeny, miny, mo.

PAUL

Eeny!

JANET

Meeny!

MARY

Miny!

PAUL

Mo!

DEBBY

Catch a dinosaur by the toe!

PAUL

If he hollers,

JANET



Let him go.

DEBBY

Tom Tyrannosaurus told me to choose the very best one. O.U.T. spells out you go!

(She spins around and points to Paul)

Ohh, Paul gets to open the umbrella first.

MARY

Some people are lucky.

DEBBY

Open it Paul.

PAUL

(Opening the umbrella) Rain, rain, come to stay,

I want to use my umbrella today.

(Nothing happens)

DEBBY

It's not working.

MARY

Try it again!

PAUL

Rain, rain, come to stay,

I want to use my umbrella today.

(Again, nothing happens)

DEBBY

Let me try it. (She takes the umbrella from Paul and puts it up.)

Rain, rain, please come to stay,

I want to use my umbrella today!

(Paper rain falls)

PAUL

Why did it work for you and not for me?

DEBBY

You have to say please or it won't work.

MARY

Let me try it.

(She takes the umbrella from Debby)

Rain, rain, please come to say,

I want to use my umbrella today.

(Paper rain falls)

DEBBY

Let's take the umbrella home and show our folks. It's hard to believe we own a magic umbrella!

JANET

Who takes the umbrella first?

DEBBY

I'll take it first. Then I'll bring it over to your house, Janet.

JANET

I'll be waiting.

(Janet, Mary, and Paul go off to the side of the stage. Debby walks over to her mother who is dusting a chair sitting in the center of the stage)

DEBBY

Mom, you'll never in a million years guess my secret!

DEBBY'S MOTHER

I won't even try, so tell me your secret.

DEBBY

I have a magic umbrella that makes it rain whenever I want it too.

DEBBY'S MOTHER

I'm glad you have a magic umbrella, Debby, but right now I want you to

quit playing and help me dust this furniture. Here's a rag.

(She hands Debby a rag)

DEBBY

It really is a magic umbrella, Mom. All I have to do is put it up and it starts raining.

DEBBY'S MOTHER

Why would you want an umbrella that makes it rain?

DEBBY

(Opens up the umbrella) See how it works, Mom? Rain, rain, please come to say,

I want to use my umbrella today.

(Paper rain comes down all over the chair and Debby's mother.)

DEBBY'S MOTHER

Debby, close that umbrella and go to your room! Look at the mess you've made in here!

DEBBY

But mom, it's magic!

DEBBY'S MOTHER

Put that umbrella away and go to your room.

DEBBY

I promised Janet that I would give her the umbrella. Can I take it over to her house? Please?

DEBBY'S MOTHER

Come right back.

DEBBY

I will, mom.

(Debby walks over to where Janet's mother is sitting on a chair reading a magazine and Janet is standing next to her mother. Debby knocks on an imaginary door and Janet answers her knock.) Here's the umbrella, Janet, but be careful. It got me in a lot of trouble.

JANET

(Taking the umbrella) I'll be careful.

DEBBY

Don't forget to give it to Mary when you're finished with it.

JANET

I won't. (She goes back by her mother and Debby and her mother go offstage.)

JANET'S MOTHER

Who was that at the door, Janet?

JANET



It's my turn to use the magic umbrella that we bought this afternoon, and Debby brought it over to me.

JANET'S MOTHER

(Laughing) Magic umbrella! How is it magic?

JANET

I'll show you. (She puts the umbrella up) Rain, rain, come to stay, I want to use my umbrella today. (Nothing happens.) What's wrong? It worked before.

JANET'S MOTHER

It's just an ordinary umbrella.

JANET

Oh, I know. Rain, rain, PLEASE come to stay,

I want to use my umbrella today.

(Paper rain falls all over Janet's mother and her magazine.)

JANET'S MOTHER

Janet, shut off that umbrella! Right now. Just look at my magazine! Just look at my hair!

JANET

It's magic, mom. It makes rain!

JANET'S MOTHER

Get it out of here!

JANET

O.K. Mom. (She takes the umbrella and goes over to Paul's house and knocks on the door. Paul opens it.) Here's the magic umbrella, Paul. It's your turn to use it.

PAUL

Oh boy! Thank you, Janet.

JANET

Watch out for that umbrella. It got me in trouble!

PAUL

I'll keep it in my room.

JANET

Don't forget to give it to Mary when you're done with it.

PAUL

I won't forget.

JANET

Can I get the magic umbrella back some day, Mom? (She and her mother walk offstage)

PAUL

(Takes the umbrella and sits on a chair.) I wonder what I'll do with my umbrella first.

PAUL'S FATHER

(Coming into the room) What have you got there, Paul?

PAUL

A magic umbrella, Dad.

PAUL'S FATHER

What's magic about it?

PAUL

All I have to do is open it and say:

Rain, rain, please come to stay,

I want to use my umbrella today.

(Paper rain falls all over Paul's father.)

And it rains.

PAUL'S FATHER

(Shouting.) Yes, I see it rains. It just rained all over my good suit. Now get that umbrella out of this house, young man, before you get in trouble.

PAUL

O.K., Dad. (He grabs the umbrella and runs over to Mary's house and knocks on the door. Mary opens it.)

PAUL

Here's the magic umbrella, Mary. It's your turn now.

MARY

Thank you, Paul.

PAUL

Be very, very careful of the magic umbrella, Mary. It almost got me in trouble.

(He and his father go offstage)

MARY

(Taking the umbrella into her house) I think I'll see if this works in the bath tub. She holds the umbrella over the bathtub.)

Rain, rain, come to stay.

I want to use my umbrella today.

(Multi-colored paper rain falls)

MARY

It works! (She takes out an oversized telephone and calls Janet.)

Janet, come over quick! I have a surprise for you.

(Janet knocks on the bathroom door and Mary throws purple rain on her)

The umbrella works, Janet!

JANET

Let's see what Henry thinks of the magic umbrella!

MARY

Oh no, we can't do that!

JANET

Why not?

MARY

Because Henry...

JANET

Rain, rain, please come to stay

I want to use my umbrella today.

(The umbrella rains colored drops of rain on Henry's hair.)

MARY

Watch out, Janet! Henry always shakes when he comes in from the...

Henry the dog reaches into his hair and pulls out confetti rain. He throws it at Janet and Mary and they throw it back.

JANET

Or confetti snow!

(They have a confetti snowball fight with Henry the Dog)

CURTAIN



