

ART

1. Using the pages from the book as a guide, have children draw pictures of themselves or of the rain falling on the pavement.
2. Have children select one of the calligraphy characters to recreate on a large sheet of paper using paintbrushes. Have them write the words in Japanese and English.

MUSIC/MOVEMENT

1. As a group, have the children make the sounds of the raindrops using first their voices, then their hands, and then their feet.
 2. Play songs about the rain, such as the song "Singing in the Rain." Have children step and dance along to the music with pretend boots and umbrellas.
 3. Read the passages in the book where Momo describes the heavy rain, the hot sun, and the blowing wind. Using cut paper or imaginary rain, sun, and wind, have the children scurry as if they are being rained on without their umbrellas. Next, have them act out how their eyes and bodies might feel under the hot sun and in strong wind.
 4. Give children an umbrella or other object to hold and have them practice walking straight and properly.
- * Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Resources, Pre-k/K for additional vignettes, sign language, and other activities.

Umbrella

Taro Yashima
1977
Puffin Books

HOPE

CONCEPTS

Hope
Love

SUMMARY

Momo, a young Japanese girl living in New York, receives bright red boots and her very own umbrella on her third birthday. Eager to try them out, she devises excuses to use them, but Mother persuades her to wait and hope for rain. At last, the rain comes. Momo uses her umbrella and boots, walks straight and tall, and remembers to bring them home from school, just like a grown-up. Yashima's simple yet creative illustrations flawlessly depict the world's eye view of a three-year-old patiently waiting to walk in the rain.

OBJECTIVES

Children will understand that hope requires patience, and parents show love through their guidance.

PREVIEW

1. Read the title and talk about how umbrellas protect us from rain. What are some other uses?
2. Bring out an umbrella and explore with the children the various parts. Some umbrellas are big, some are very compact, some have hooks on the end, others don't, and some are manual while others are automatic.
3. Ask the children to find HOPE on the Heartwood Attribute Poster.

READING

1. Read the story uninterrupted.
2. Read while slowly showing each page, being sure to have the children look at the symbols and images for the seasons and weather. Talk about the differences in weather during spring and summer.

After the Story

DISCUSSION

What is Momo hoping for? Why does Mother suggest that Momo wait for rain? Discuss how she has to be patient before using her umbrella. Why is it difficult for her to wait? What does she do when it doesn't rain? Are you waiting for something to happen? What do you do to help yourself wait patiently?

ACTIVITIES

1. How can you tell whether it is going to rain? Read and show children a 3- or 5-day weather forecast from the newspaper or a website. Post the forecast and check in for the next few days to see if it is accurate.
2. Momo had to save using her umbrella until a rainy day. Ask children if they've heard the phrase "saving for a rainy day." Have children draw a picture of an umbrella and underneath it write or draw something for which they might save their money.

WRAP-UP

1. Have children draw or write about things they're waiting to do or places they're hoping to go.
2. Read the passage where Momo says she "stood up straight." In a circle, ask children to tell a story about a time they felt really grown up and why.

HOME CONNECTION

Children complete the Home Connection Page and teachers record their responses. Send these pages home to children's families.

Expressive Arts

DRAMA/LANGUAGE

1. Prop Box: Use items in the box for retelling and acting out the story or for small group creative play.
2. Mini-Manners Plays*: with finger puppets, model hope. For example:

Puppet 1: Guess what I'm hoping for?

Puppet 2: What?

Puppet 1: Someone to play with!

Puppet 2: Me too!

Puppet 1: Want to play together?

Puppet 2: Okay. What should we play?
3. Have the children pretend they are Momo and the teacher is Mother. Ask the children to call out excuses for using their umbrellas just as Momo did. Respond to their requests with words of patience and hope.
4. Teach children to sign "I hope."