

The Umbrella

Worksheet and activities

Warm Up

This story is about an umbrella.

There are many kinds of umbrellas. Very big ones for golf; small folding umbrellas to go in bags or brief cases; sun umbrellas or parasols...

How many umbrellas do you have? When do you use an umbrella? Have you ever lost an umbrella? When you buy an umbrella do you think about it as something that will keep you dry? Or do you think about an umbrella as a fashion accessory?

Umbrellas seem to be popular in movies. On the last page of this worksheet you will find some movies where important characters had umbrellas.

Before you look, what movies can you remember that had umbrellas in them?

Read the story



The Umbrella

Sally walked out of the hair salon. She was very happy. Her new, expensive hairstyle was very nice. She started to walk down the busy street. She was five minutes away from the car park. She looked at the sky.

"Oh no!" she thought. "It's going to rain! And I don't have my umbrella!"

Suddenly, large rain drops started to fall. She started to run. She was wearing high heels, so she could not run very fast. It started to rain harder. She decided to go into a shop and wait for the rain to stop. She stood in the entrance to a bookshop and waited. And waited. She looked at her watch.

"Oh no! It's 3:30! I have a very important meeting at 4:00! What am I going to do? I can't wait here!" she thought.

She looked for a taxi, but there were no taxis. She looked for a bus, but there were no buses. "And the buses don't go to the car park," she thought. She looked at the sky again. It was very grey. She decided to run.

She stepped out of the shop entrance and into the street. She started to run. After 30 seconds, her shoes, her skirt and her coat were very wet. And her hair was very wet, too. She ran faster.

Then, she heard someone behind her.

"Excuse me! Excuse me!"

It was a man. She felt a little frightened. She did not stop. She continued to run.

"Stop! Please wait!"

Sally ran faster. The man was very close to her now.

"Please! Stop!"

She ran faster.

"Stop! Stop!"

She stopped and turned around.

"What is it? What do you want?" she shouted.

The man was around 40 years old. He was wearing a suit, and he was carrying a briefcase. He was a businessman. Sally was not happy. She felt angry, and she wanted to get to her car. The man did not say anything. He passed his umbrella to her.

Sally was very surprised. She took the umbrella.

"Thank you!" she said. But the man did not hear her. He just ran away.

Sally watched him. Then, she walked to her car under the umbrella. Sally got to the car park and found her car. She got in her car and closed the door. In the car, she brushed her hair. She was lucky. Thanks to the umbrella, her hair was not too wet. She looked in the mirror and carefully styled her hair again.

Sally drove out of the car park and onto the main road.

"Who was that man?" she thought. "And why did he give me his umbrella? He was so kind. I want to say 'thank you', but I can't."

She looked at the sky. She could see the sun behind the clouds. And in front of her, there was a rainbow. Sally looked at the rainbow and smiled and said "Thank you!"

Across town, the man was walking back to his office. He looked at the sky and saw a rainbow. He smiled and said "You're welcome!"

Check your understanding -Quick quiz.

- 1 What is Sally's problem?
 - a) She is wearing high heeled shoes.
 - b) It is raining and she has no umbrella.
 - c) She can't remember where the car park is.
- 2 Why is Sally worried about the time?
 - a) She has an appointment at the hair salon.
 - b) She has an important meeting.
 - c) She has a date with a businessman.
 - d)
- 3 Why does Sally start to run in the rain?
 - a) There are no buses or taxis.
 - b) She wants to get her hair wet.
 - c) She sees a businessman.
- 4 Why does the man chase Sally?
 - a) He is going to the same meeting.
 - b) He wants a date with Sally.
 - c) He wants to give Sally his umbrella.

- 5 At the end of the story, Sally sees something that makes her smile. What is it?
- a) An umbrella
 - b) A rainbow
 - c) The businessman.

Your opinion

Look at the words in the box. What words can we use to describe the man who chases Sally? Circle your choices. Get ready to tell the class why you chose these words.

kind	scary	wet	angry	impatient
friendly	busy	generous	frightening	romantic

Advanced discussion topic

This story could have been called "The Kindness of Strangers." Do you agree with this statement. Why or why not?

What is the meaning of the rainbow in the story?

Activity

Rainbows are very important in the culture of most countries. Every country has stories and legends about them.

In Ireland they say there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. In olden time in Norway, people believed that the rainbow was a bridge between earth and the home of the Gods. Australian aboriginals believed the rainbow is a snake and the creator of life.

What stories do you have about rainbows in your country? Spend a few minutes preparing and then tell the rest of the class about why rainbows are important in your culture.

(Movies with umbrellas:
Charlie Chaplain movies; The Umbrellas of Cherbourg; Mary Poppins; Blade Runner; Totoro; Batman Returns)

(Photo credit: Photo of woman with umbrella on page 1: License: Public Domain on June 10, 2013 Woman And Umbrella by George Hodan)