



The Magic Umbrella

Introduction

The idea for this "Story Inspiration" came from a teacher who was exploring it with her seven year olds.

The theme offered many simple opportunities for setting stories in a wide variety of imaginative locations. An umbrella could effectively become a magic carpet, a space ship or even a time machine.

Preparation

Have a few cheap colourful umbrellas ready. Children could bring them in.

Show the umbrellas

"Have you ever been out with an umbrella on a wild wet windy day? You feel as though the umbrella might lift you up into the sky and carry you away.

Umbrellas are strange things. They are almost like bright bats with scaly little fingers.

Have you noticed that lots of umbrellas have to be kept squashed and tied up in bags.

Do you think that they are trying to fly away?

I wonder who first thought about an umbrella I wonder who invented the idea."

Offer a child an umbrella. Ask them to hold it and describe where they would like to go. If children are uncomfortable with putting an umbrella up indoors, many people can be superstitious about this, then make it part of the game. "Be careful, when the umbrella goes up you might take off ..."

Follow up

This is also an ideal starting point for

Science activities;

- Exploration of seed dispersal, parachute seeds like dandelions
- Materials: What would make the best material for an umbrella?
- Forces: wind and air movement, making airborne gliders, spinners etc

History/ Geography:

- Using the "Magic Umbrella to drop in for a first hand view.

Movement work:

- Playground games with paper umbrellas, grouping by number, colour, etc

**Draw yourself being carried on a magic adventure.
You can draw where you are going as well.**



Name _____



The Magic Umbrella

Author _____

Scribe _____

The Magic Umbrella



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Story Ideas

So where did you get this umbrella?

- Did you buy it
- Did you find it somewhere surprising?
- Did someone give it to you?
- Did you invent it?

What was the umbrella like?

- What colour was it?
- What size and shape was it?
- Did it have any patterns?
- Was there anything unusual about it?

What happened when you used it?

- Did it fly away?
- Did it do something unexpected?
- Could it talk?

What adventures did you have with your umbrella?

Chris Thompson scribing

