

The Umbrella That Is Too Big



Nussbaum Mind

Illustration coming soon

Ages 6-9



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Chapter 1: Rain

On Wednesday morning, rain taps on the window.

Faigie looks for her small yellow umbrella. It is not by the door.

"I think you left it at school," says Tatty.

"What do I use?"

Tatty goes to the closet and takes out Zeidy's old umbrella. It is black. It is very big.

Chapter 2: Too big

Faigie holds it with both hands. The umbrella is taller than her head. It opens with a loud pop.

"It is too big," she says.

"It will keep you dry," says Tatty.

Faigie walks to school under the black umbrella. It tips to the left. The handle is heavy. Her arms get tired.

She remembers Zeidy walking to shul in the rain with this umbrella. He held it high, and it kept his hat dry. She did not think about how big it was then.



Chapter 3: At the door

At the school gate, three girls stand under their small umbrellas: Miri, Chaya and Rivka.

"Whose umbrella is that?" asks Miri.

"It is my Zeidy's," says Faigie.

"It is like a tent," says Miri, and giggles.

Faigie's cheeks get hot. She wants to close the umbrella and hide it. She wants to say, "It is not mine."

But it is hers, for today.

Chapter 4: What she says

Faigie takes a breath. She counts one, two, three, the way Morah Leah teaches.

"It is big," she says. "And it is old. But it is dry under here."

Miri looks. A drip falls from her own small umbrella onto her shoe.

"My shoe is wet," says Miri.

"There is room," says Faigie.

Chapter 5: Under the tent

Miri steps under the black umbrella. So does Chaya. So does Rivka.



Four girls stand close, with the rain drumming on the top. Their elbows bump. Nobody minds.

"It really is like a tent," says Chaya.

"It is a good tent," says Rivka.

Miri puts her hand on the handle next to Faigie's hands, and it is easier with two. The four girls walk up the path to the school door together, and the umbrella stays up.

Chapter 6: The umbrella stand

At the school door, Faigie shakes the umbrella outside, under the porch roof. She closes it and puts it in the umbrella stand by the door, with a tray underneath.

Morah Leah comes to the door and looks at it. "That is a big umbrella."

"It is my Zeidy's," says Faigie.

"It kept four girls dry," says Morah Leah. "That is a good job for an umbrella."

Faigie feels warm, and not from the radiator. She sits down at her desk and her cheeks are cool again. She has a funny thought. The umbrella is still too big. It is still old. But it can be too big and still be helpful.



Chapter 7: Going home

After school, the rain has stopped. Faigie carries the umbrella closed, with the handle tucked under her arm.

At home, Zeidy sits in his chair.

"Your umbrella was a tent today," says Faigie.

Zeidy laughs. "Was it a good tent?"

"It was dry," says Faigie. "And big enough for four."

She hangs it by the door, to dry.



Umbrella order

Number the cards in story order.

Faigie cannot find her small yellow umbrella.

She opens Zeidy's big black umbrella.

Miri says it is like a tent.

Faigie says it is big and old but dry under here.

Four girls walk under the umbrella together.



Event or body feeling?

Mark EVENT for what happens. Mark BODY FEELING for what Faigie feels in her body.

Story statement	EVENT	BODY FEELING
The umbrella opens with a pop.	☐	☐
Her arms get tired.	☐	☐
Four girls stand close.	☐	☐
Her cheeks get hot.	☐	☐



What can Faigie say?

Choose the sentence that is true and kind. Rewrite one other sentence in your own words.

Sentence	Kind and true?
☐ It is big, and it is dry under here.	
☐ Your umbrella is silly.	
☐ There is room.	

One sentence in your own words



Rainy day steps

Draw a path through the steps that help on a rainy walk.

Start

Hold the handle with both hands.

Hide the umbrella.

Say what is true.

Make room for a friend.

Say it is not yours.

Hang the umbrella to dry.

A helpful next step



My umbrella day

Use a fictional child. Write three things to do with an item that feels too big or too old.

A fictional child and item

Three things to do

Who could share it



Rainy day words

Read the reminders with an adult. Choose one that fits. Final stickers are 2 1/4-inch squares.

Big can help

Old can help

**Say what is
true**

There is room

Dry under here

Hang it to dry



Big black umbrella

Draw a big black umbrella open over a few small boots, with raindrops.



A detail I add to the umbrella scene



Find the rain words

Find RAIN, BIG, DRY, TENT, ROOM, HANDLE, ZEIDY, STAND.
All go left to right. Tell one word's part in the story.

R	A	I	N	X	Q	Z	B	W	M
X	B	I	G	Q	M	D	F	G	Z
Z	D	R	Y	P	X	K	H	B	N
Q	T	E	N	T	B	V	D	W	C
X	R	O	O	M	Q	M	Z	P	G
B	H	A	N	D	L	E	D	F	G
X	Z	E	I	D	Y	Q	X	Z	M
S	T	A	N	D	X	B	N	M	Z
P	Q	M	Z	X	W	V	B	D	F
C	B	N	M	K	X	Q	Z	P	D

RAIN**BIG****DRY****TENT****ROOM****HANDLE****ZEIDY****STAND**

One word's part in the story



Parent notes and answers

Discussion questions:

Why did Faigie use Zeidy's umbrella?

What did Miri say about it?

What true thing did Faigie say?

Who came under the umbrella?

What did Morah Leah say about it?

Parent tool: A borrowed or unusual item can feel embarrassing. A calm true sentence helps more than hiding. Sharing is a choice, not a rule. Do not promise that teasing stops. Use fictional examples only.

1. Listed order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

2. EVENT: the umbrella opens with a pop; four girls stand close. BODY FEELING: her arms get tired; her cheeks get hot.

3. Kind and true: It is big, and it is dry under here; there is room. Not kind: Your umbrella is silly.

4. Useful nodes: Hold the handle with both hands; Say what is true; Make room for a friend; Hang the umbrella to dry. Not useful nodes: Hide the umbrella; Say it is not yours.

5. Open. Example: say what is true, offer room, hang it to dry.

6. Open. No result is promised.

7. Open. No people needed.

8. RAIN: row 1, column 1, right; BIG: row 2, column 2, right; DRY: row 3, column 2, right; TENT: row 4, column 2, right; ROOM: row 5, column 2, right; HANDLE: row 6, column 2, right; ZEIDY: row 7, column 2, right; STAND: row 8, column 1, right