



2006

Un-brella

Rita Christensen

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Franson, Scott E. *Un-brella*. Illustrated by Franson, Scott E. Roaring Brook Press, 2007. ISBN 9781596431799. \$15.95. 32 p.

Reviewer: Rita Christensen

Reading Level: Toddler, preschool, primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture Books;

Subject: Weather—Juvenile fiction; Stories without words; Umbrellas—Juvenile fiction; Magic—Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews

Have you ever wished for glorious sunshine on a wintry day? "Un-brella" makes this fantasy a reality through clever, wordless illustrations. A wide-eyed little girl peers outside her window to behold a splendid winter wonderland. She searches through her summer trunk and is soon jaunting through snow-covered terrain in her beach attire. Upon opening her un-brella, a ray of light radiates down from the sunshade and melts the snow surrounding her. Flowers and grass appear beneath the little girl's feet; wherever she walks she leaves a trail of summertime—insects, sunflowers, slides, and thistles. When summer finally does arrive, our heroine longs for snowflakes and sled rides. She simply dons her winter garb and opens her un-brella to create a flurry of snow showers.

Franson's eye-catching illustrations bustle with activity to hold the reader's attention. The color palette used is stunning and creates a clear contrast between summer and winter landscapes. The computer-generated artwork resembles paper cut-outs, giving the illustrations a delicate and intricate quality.

Excellent to use at school or home to introduce young children to a variety of subjects: seasons, weather, nature, change, animals, color, shape, and of course umbrellas.