Un-brella

Rita Christensen

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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.