



The Thingamabob

Il Sung Na

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One day, he found the thingamabob.

He had no idea what it was or where it came from. . . .

So begins the story of a curious elephant and a mysterious red object. But what is it?! When none of his friends can tell him, the little elephant decides to experiment. He thinks: Maybe I can fly with it? (Maybe not.) Maybe I can sail in it? (Maybe not.) Maybe I can hide behind it? (Maybe not.) Nothing seems to work, until big drops of rain begin to fall. The little elephant does not want to get wet. Luckily, with the thingamabob (an umbrella), he does not *need* to get wet!

With bright, adorable illustrations and a simple, playful text, Il Sung Na captures the excitement of making—and sharing—an unexpected discovery.

From the Hardcover edition.

The Thingamabob Details

Date : Published March 9th 2010 by Knopf Books for Young Readers (first published 2008)

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Author : Il Sung Na

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From Reader Review The Thingamabob for online ebook

Angelina says

I'm starting to love Il Sung Na's drawing!

Emmaline MacBeath says

An elephant comes across an umbrella but doesn't know what it is. He tries it out for several uses such as flying, sailing and hiding behind. But this doesn't work out so well. Suddenly it rains. The elephant has the umbrella open. Suddenly he sees a great use for the umbrella.

Il Sung Na once again uses a unique textured painting style for illustration. Although it is interesting, in this book it is not as rich and colorful or complex as you find in his book, *A Book of Babies*.

This is very simple and short story about object exploration. This would be a good book to use along with an exploration activity with the little ones. Give them an unknown object and ask them to think about what it could be used for. The book is advertized for ages 3-7 which is the right audience for this simple book.

Amy Forrester says

This intricate, yet simple book is about an elephant who finds a thingamabob. He asks all his friends, from the blue bear to the feathery ostrich, but none of them can figure it out. As it begins to rain the elephant realizes what readers will have already figured out – The thingamabob is an umbrella!

The illustrations are childlike, with lovely embellishments in unexpected places. At first glance the umbrella is simply bright red, however if you take a moment to look you'll see that there's a design of swirls, raindrops, and clouds on it. It's the little touches like this that make the illustrations so fascinating.

Full Review at Picture-Book-a-Day: <http://picturebookaday.blogspot.com/2012/07/the-thingamabob.html>

Roben says

We used this one in our Umbrella storytime today. It was a huge hit! The kids - and their parents - all enjoyed helping elephant figure out the purpose of the found thingamabob.

Michael says

A cute one.

Donna says

A wonderful quirky story about an elephant and an umbrella. There is much pondering and speculation about the capabilities of an umbrella ... and equally its limitations.

This book is best read really loud while sitting on the floor in a library ... especially when all the technology in the library is not co-operating and everything is going to hell in a handbasket. See I'm still smiling. XD

Sinéad Kelly says

Another of my daughters favourites

Jen says

4.5 stars

This book is great! The illustrations were wonderful: both very adorable and charming. The text was very good, too: simple enough to explain but not draw attention from the great illustrations.

I really liked the story being told. The curious elephant did some funny things to try and figure out what the thingamabob was. The results of his experiments were quite humorous, though definitely not to be tried by kids. I especially liked that he shared the benefits once he figured out its purpose.

I think this book would make an excellent gift for parents with young children to read to and to children learning to read on their own. As such, I plan to gift it to my baby nieces. :)

AD says

An elephant finds a thingamabob. But what does it do? This is a simple story with very sweet illustrations.

J says

I read this to some preschoolers. It's a fast read with nice pictures.

Syntha Green says

Perfect for storytime

Jill says

I thought this one was fun and funny. I can see kids really enjoying that they know what the object is.

Kevin Doyle says

The text in this book is cute, but for us, the art is the real "draw". (Pun intended.) The main character is one of the oddest, cleverest, funniest, most unique elephants you might ever see. As are the rest of his animal friends who live with him throughout the jungle. Such an interesting style of illustration that really "draws" you in on every page. (OK I'll stop with the bad draw pun now.) Even the simplest pictures are exquisite.

I could absolutely see any of the spreads in this book being framed and put on a kid's room wall. It would then be a center point from which you could decorate the whole room in a neat style and color palate. Yes, that's enormous praise for the art in this book but it absolutely deserves it.

You may notice I've mentioned the text very little. As I wrote earlier, it was cute and very well-written. But the words easily get lost in the beautiful illustrations. Which is fine because you really don't need their distraction. Also, no synopsis is necessary. You can look at the cover and tell exactly what's going to happen.

But the art will still amaze you!

A definite recommendation for small children or for any parent who loves picture books. Would be a fantastic baby-shower gift!

Paula says

I have to admit, Il Sung Na's illustration style gives me almost physical pleasure. I feel that it's important for me to say that her delicate, powdery sprays of intense color underlaying the sweetest, finest scratchy ink lines are like getting my hair brushed by a small child. One of my small children, of course - I may be a little odd but I don't actually solicit random children to brush my hair, come on!

And then I open the book. No, seriously, I'm still talking about the cover here.

Full review on Pink Me: <http://pinkme.typepad.com/pink-me/201...>

Jenn Swanson says

An elephant stumbles upon a red object. He has no idea what this object is. My daughter enjoyed this book and kept yelling at the elephant the answer thinking that the animal could hear her. The illustrations were adorable as well. Would recommend.

