

The Umbrella

This story is an expanded version of one that appeared in The Leader magazine some time ago.

Once upon a time there was a little *** (boy/girl/child/person) who lived in a very poor, warm country where it rained a great deal. The *** worked very hard in his garden and soon saved enough money to treat himself to something special. He went to the market place and spent a very long time looking for that something. Finally, he asked the advice of the shopkeeper.

"What should I get?" he asked. "I want something special, something no one else has, something to be proud of."

Well, the shopkeeper thought and thought, and finally came up with an idea. "I think you should get an umbrella," he said. "They have just come in and no one else owns an umbrella yet. They are special, and they are certainly very useful to keep you dry in the rain."

The *** was thrilled. He had just enough money to buy an umbrella. Now he'd show everyone. He'd be dry while all his friends go wet. He went home very satisfied with his important new purchase.

He no sooner arrived home when it started to rain. So he called to his friends, "Look, I have this wonderful invention to keep me dry in this rain. Watch and see!"

He help up his umbrella. Nothing happened. He still got wet.

"That is of no value," his friends said. "It doesn't keep you dry!" The *** was devastated.

The next week, he went back to the market with his umbrella and told the shopkeeper he wanted his money back because the umbrella didn't work. the shopkeeper was puzzled and asked him what happened. The *** explained that he had help up the umbrella but he still got wet.

"It is not enough just to hold it up," the shopkeeper explained. "You have to open it, too." He showed the *** how to open the umbrella, and the *** left again feeling very satisfied with his purchase.

As soon as he arrived home, it started to rain and, again, he called all his friends over to see this marvellous invention that would keep him dry while all the others were wet. He carefully opened the umbrella and help it up. But still he got wet!

This time, the *** was very upset and, back at the market the following wee, he marched into the shop and demanded his money back. The shopkeeper was dumbfounded. He just couldn't understand what the *** was doing wrong.

"Show me exactly how you were using this umbrella," he asked. The *** showed him how he carefully opened up the umbrella and held it. Then the shopkeeper understood. "It is not enough to open it and hold it," he smiled, "you must also position it properly over your head for it to work for you."

****, your Cub Book is like this ***'s umbrella. Your parents/leaders/group may give you one, but, if you never open it and never read it, it will be of no value to you. When you use your book properly, you'll find inside a whole new world of exciting ideas and things to do — the whole new world of fun and fellowship that is Cubbing.*

Contributed by Judy Walker.