

# the white umbrella gish jen

the white umbrella gish jen is a widely studied short story that captivates readers with its engaging narrative and profound exploration of cultural identity, family relationships, and belonging. Written by acclaimed author Gish Jen, this story is a staple in contemporary literature, often analyzed in academic settings for its rich symbolism and relatable themes. In this article, we provide a comprehensive analysis of "The White Umbrella," including a detailed summary, exploration of main themes, character analysis, examination of symbolism, and the cultural context in which the story is set. Readers will gain valuable insights into the narrative's meaning, discover why it resonates with audiences, and understand its ongoing relevance in discussions about assimilation and self-acceptance. Whether you are a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this article will serve as an authoritative resource on "the white umbrella gish jen" and offer a deeper appreciation for Gish Jen's literary artistry.

- Summary of "The White Umbrella" by Gish Jen
- Main Themes and Motifs in the Story
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- Symbolism and Imagery: The Meaning of the White Umbrella
- Cultural Context and Relevance
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# Summary of "The White Umbrella" by Gish Jen

"The White Umbrella" by Gish Jen is a poignant short story centered on a young Chinese-American girl who grapples with feelings of embarrassment about her family and cultural background. Set in an American city, the story unfolds as the protagonist and her younger sister, Mona, wait for their mother to pick them up from piano lessons. When their mother arrives late due to her job, the narrator feels self-conscious, especially in front of her piano teacher, Miss Crosman, and her classmate, Eugenie Roberts, who comes from a more privileged background. The narrative follows the protagonist's internal struggle as she desires to fit in, resents her mother's absence, and covets Eugenie's beautiful white umbrella. This object becomes a powerful symbol throughout the story, representing the narrator's longing for acceptance and her complex relationship with her heritage and family.

## Main Themes and Motifs in the Story

### Cultural Identity and Assimilation

One of the central themes in "the white umbrella gish jen" is cultural identity. The protagonist is caught between her Chinese heritage and her desire to assimilate into American society. She is acutely aware of the differences between her family and her peers, which fuels her feelings of inadequacy. The narrative explores how children of immigrants often struggle to reconcile dual identities and the social pressures of fitting in.

### Family Relationships and Expectations

Family dynamics play a significant role in the story. The narrator's complicated feelings toward her mother highlight the generational and cultural gaps that often exist in immigrant families. While she feels embarrassed by her mother's job and actions, she also deeply cares for her. The story examines

the expectations placed on children and parents alike, and the sacrifices made for family.

## **Material Desire versus Emotional Fulfillment**

The white umbrella itself symbolizes the allure of material possessions and the belief that owning such items can lead to social acceptance or happiness. The protagonist's longing for the umbrella mirrors her desire to change her circumstances, but the story ultimately questions whether material possessions can truly fulfill emotional needs or mend familial relationships.

- Cultural identity and duality
- Family expectations and generational differences
- Materialism versus emotional needs
- Acceptance and self-worth

## **Character Analysis in "The White Umbrella"**

### **The Narrator**

The unnamed narrator is a young Chinese-American girl whose perspective shapes the story. Her internal conflict and emotional journey are central to the narrative. She is intelligent, sensitive, and perceptive, yet struggles with insecurity and a desire to fit into her American surroundings. Her feelings toward her mother and her yearning for the white umbrella reveal her vulnerability and the complexity of her identity.

## **Mona**

Mona is the narrator's younger sister. While she plays a secondary role, Mona's more carefree attitude and acceptance of their family situation contrast with the narrator's self-consciousness. Mona highlights the varied ways children within the same family adapt to cultural differences.

## **The Mother**

The mother is a hardworking immigrant who juggles her job with caring for her children. She is loving but often misunderstood by her daughter. Her late arrival and worn appearance embarrass the narrator, but her resilience and devotion become apparent as the story progresses.

## **Miss Crosman and Eugenie Roberts**

Miss Crosman is the sisters' piano teacher, representing American authority and stability. Eugenie, a classmate, symbolizes the ease and privilege the narrator yearns for. Both characters serve as mirrors reflecting the narrator's insecurities and aspirations.

## **Symbolism and Imagery: The Meaning of the White Umbrella**

### **The White Umbrella as a Symbol**

The white umbrella is the central symbol in Gish Jen's story. It represents more than just a desirable object; it embodies the narrator's longing for acceptance, status, and a sense of belonging. The

umbrella's pristine appearance contrasts with the narrator's perception of her own life, which she views as less than perfect.

## **Other Motifs and Imagery**

Jen uses a range of imagery to evoke the narrator's emotional state and the story's themes. The weather, the piano lessons, and the family car all serve as recurring motifs that highlight the contrasts between appearances and reality, as well as between material and emotional fulfillment.

- The umbrella: longing, assimilation, desire
- The piano lesson: discipline, expectation
- The car: family journey, transition

## **Cultural Context and Relevance**

### **Immigrant Experience in America**

"The White Umbrella" is set against the backdrop of the immigrant experience in the United States. The story provides insight into the challenges faced by immigrant families, including language barriers, economic pressures, and cultural misunderstandings. Jen skillfully captures the nuances of navigating two worlds, making the narrative highly relevant to readers from diverse backgrounds.

## Contemporary Significance

The themes of "the white umbrella gish jen" remain timely and significant, resonating with contemporary discussions about diversity, inclusion, and the importance of cultural heritage. The story is frequently included in school curricula and literary anthologies because of its universal appeal and the way it fosters empathy and understanding.

## Key Takeaways and Lessons from the Story

"The White Umbrella" by Gish Jen offers several important lessons. It demonstrates the complexity of cultural identity and the emotional turmoil that can arise from the desire to assimilate. The story encourages readers to appreciate their families, recognize the sacrifices made by loved ones, and understand that material possessions are not the source of true happiness. Ultimately, the narrative promotes empathy, self-acceptance, and the value of cultural heritage.

- Assimilation can be challenging, but self-acceptance is essential for happiness.
- Material possessions do not guarantee emotional fulfillment or social acceptance.
- Understanding and appreciating family sacrifices can strengthen relationships.
- Cultural diversity and heritage are valuable aspects of personal identity.

## Q: What is the main plot of "The White Umbrella" by Gish Jen?

A: "The White Umbrella" follows a young Chinese-American girl who feels embarrassed by her family's

differences and desires a white umbrella as a symbol of acceptance. The story explores her internal conflict as she learns valuable lessons about family and identity.

### **Q: What does the white umbrella symbolize in the story?**

A: The white umbrella symbolizes the narrator's longing for acceptance, assimilation, and the belief that material possessions can bring happiness or status. It also represents her internal struggle with cultural identity.

### **Q: Who are the main characters in "The White Umbrella"?**

A: The main characters include the unnamed narrator, her younger sister Mona, their hardworking mother, the piano teacher Miss Crosman, and a classmate named Eugenie Roberts.

### **Q: What are the central themes of "The White Umbrella" by Gish Jen?**

A: Key themes include cultural identity, family relationships, assimilation, generational conflict, and the difference between material desire and emotional fulfillment.

### **Q: How does the narrator's relationship with her mother evolve?**

A: The narrator starts by feeling embarrassed by her mother but gradually gains empathy and understanding, recognizing her mother's sacrifices and the importance of family bonds.

### **Q: Why is "The White Umbrella" considered an important work in contemporary literature?**

A: The story is valued for its exploration of the immigrant experience, relatable characters, and universal themes of self-acceptance and family, making it a frequent choice in educational settings.

## **Q: What lesson does the narrator learn by the end of the story?**

A: The narrator learns that material possessions cannot replace genuine emotional connection and that embracing her family and cultural identity is more important than fitting in.

## **Q: How does Gish Jen use symbolism in "The White Umbrella"?**

A: Jen employs the white umbrella, the piano lesson, and other motifs to deepen themes of longing, assimilation, and family expectations, enriching the narrative's meaning.

## **Q: In what ways does the story reflect the immigrant experience?**

A: "The White Umbrella" highlights challenges such as cultural duality, generational gaps, and the desire to fit into a new society, portraying the complex realities of immigrant families.

## **Q: What is the significance of the ending in "The White Umbrella"?**

A: The ending signifies the narrator's growing maturity and realization that love and understanding within her family are more meaningful than external validation or material possessions.

## **[The White Umbrella Gish Jen](#)**

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## **The White Umbrella: Unraveling the Gish Jen Enigma**

Have you ever encountered a story so subtly powerful, so richly layered, that it stays with you long after you've turned the final page? Gish Jen's short story, "The White Umbrella," is precisely that.



This seemingly simple tale of a young girl navigating the complexities of family, culture, and ambition resonates deeply, sparking countless interpretations and discussions. This blog post delves into the heart of "The White Umbrella," exploring its key themes, analyzing its narrative structure, and ultimately, helping you understand why it remains a staple of literary study and critical acclaim. We'll uncover the hidden depths within this seemingly simple story and shed light on its enduring power.

## **Understanding the Narrative Structure: A Glimpse into the Mind of a Child**

Jen masterfully employs a first-person narrative, placing the reader directly into the mind of the young protagonist, Mona. This perspective allows us to experience the world through Mona's eyes, witnessing her gradual understanding of the intricate dynamics within her family and the broader cultural landscape. The narrative unfolds chronologically, presenting a series of seemingly small, yet significant, events that cumulatively reveal Mona's developing self-awareness. The story isn't driven by dramatic plot twists, but rather by the subtle shifts in Mona's understanding of her own identity and her place within her family's expectations.

## **The Power of the White Umbrella: Symbolism and Significance**

The white umbrella itself acts as a potent symbol, representing a multitude of intertwined themes. On the surface, it's a practical object, shielding Mona from the rain. However, its significance runs far deeper. The umbrella represents:

**Aspiration and Achievement:** The umbrella is the symbol of Mona's mother's ambition for her daughter, representing a desire for upward mobility and success within the American context. It becomes a symbol of her mother's expectations and her own internal conflict.

**Cultural Clash:** The umbrella embodies the clash between traditional Chinese values and American cultural norms. Mona's mother's relentless pursuit of success through education can be viewed as a reflection of the challenges faced by immigrants striving to assimilate.

**A Source of Conflict:** The umbrella also symbolizes the tension between Mona and her mother, representing a power struggle and a breakdown in communication. The umbrella becomes a focal point for their disagreements and misunderstandings.

**A Metaphor for Identity:** Finally, the white umbrella serves as a symbol of Mona's own evolving identity. She is caught between two worlds and attempts to reconcile the cultural expectations placed upon her with her own personal aspirations.

## **Exploring Themes of Family Dynamics and Cultural Identity**

"The White Umbrella" profoundly explores the complex dynamics of a Chinese-American family. The story reveals the subtle yet powerful ways in which cultural expectations shape family relationships.

Mona's mother embodies the ambition and drive to achieve success in a new country, often at the expense of nurturing a deeper connection with her daughter. This highlights the tension between parental expectations and a child's desire for individual expression. The story delves into the challenges of intergenerational communication and the difficulties faced by immigrant families as they navigate their new surroundings. Mona's struggles are universal, resonating with anyone who has felt the pressure to conform to expectations while simultaneously yearning for self-discovery.

## **The Importance of Language and Communication (or Lack Thereof)**

Jen skillfully uses language to showcase the communication barriers between Mona and her mother. The subtle nuances of their interactions highlight the difficulties in bridging cultural differences and the emotional distance that can arise from a lack of open and honest communication. The silences, the misunderstandings, and the unspoken anxieties all contribute to the overall narrative tension. This aspect of the story adds a layer of complexity, forcing the reader to contemplate the profound impact of communication, or the lack thereof, in shaping family relationships.

## **Beyond the Umbrella: Enduring Relevance and Critical Acclaim**

"The White Umbrella" continues to resonate with readers because of its timeless themes. The struggles of identity, the pressures of family expectations, and the challenges of navigating different cultural perspectives remain universally relevant. Gish Jen's masterful storytelling, combined with her ability to capture the emotional nuances of childhood experiences, has cemented "The White Umbrella" as a significant piece of contemporary literature. Its inclusion in countless anthologies and its continued discussion in academic circles prove its lasting impact.

## **Conclusion:**

Gish Jen's "The White Umbrella" is far more than just a short story; it's a poignant exploration of family, culture, and the complexities of growing up. Its enduring power lies in its ability to evoke powerful emotions and encourage reflection on our own experiences with familial expectations and cultural identity. The white umbrella, a seemingly simple object, becomes a profound symbol of ambition, conflict, and the ongoing journey of self-discovery.

## FAQs:

1. What is the central conflict in "The White Umbrella"? The central conflict is the clash between Mona's desires and her mother's expectations, particularly regarding academic achievement and cultural assimilation.
2. How does the setting contribute to the story's meaning? The setting, likely a Westernized city in the US, emphasizes the contrast between Mona's Chinese heritage and her American upbringing, highlighting the challenges of navigating two cultures.
3. What is the significance of Mona's talent for writing? Her talent represents an outlet for self-expression and a potential pathway to independence, contrasting with the prescribed path her mother envisions for her.
4. What is the symbolic meaning of the rain? The rain can be interpreted as a metaphor for the emotional turmoil and the challenges Mona faces in her life.
5. How does the story end, and what is its overall message? The story concludes without a clear resolution, suggesting that Mona's journey of self-discovery is ongoing. The overall message revolves around the importance of understanding cultural differences and navigating the complexities of family relationships.

**the white umbrella gish jen: A Study Guide for Gish Jen's "The White Umbrella"** Gale, Cengage Learning, A Study Guide for Gish Jen's The White Umbrella, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

**the white umbrella gish jen: Tiger Writing** Gish Jen, 2013-03-25 In three pieces originally delivered as special lectures, draws on the biography of the author's father as well as the evolution of her own work to contrast Western and Eastern ideas of self-narration and interdependency.

**the white umbrella gish jen: Typical American** Gish Jen, 2014-11-11 This "irresistible novel" of Chinese immigrants navigating the American dream is "startling [and] heartrending, without ever losing its comic touch" (Entertainment Weekly). Gish Jen reinvents the American immigrant story through the Chang family, who first come to the United States with no intention of staying. But when the Communists assume control of China in 1949, Ralph Chang, his sister Theresa, and his wife Helen find themselves in a crisis, struggling to cling to their old-world ideas of themselves. But soon they begin to dream the American dream of self-invention. They transform, poignantly and ironically, from people who disparage all that is "typical American" to people who aspire to the American ideal. With droll humor and a deep empathy for her characters, Gish Jen creates a superbly engrossing story that sparkles with wit while challenging the reader to reconsider what it means to be a typical American. "No paraphrase could capture the intelligence of Gish Jen's prose, its epigrammatic sweep and swiftness . . . . The author just keeps coming at you line after stunning line." —The New York Times Book Review

**the white umbrella gish jen: World and Town** Gish Jen, 2011-10-04 The award-winning author of Thank You, Mr. Nixon and The Resisters delivers "[a] triumph of a novel.... Jen reflects America, at its best, its worst, its most vulnerable" (The Miami Herald), and asks deep questions about religion, love, home, and meaning. Hattie Kong, a retired teacher and a descendant of Confucius,

has decided that it's time to start over. She moves to the peaceful New England town of Riverlake, a place that once represented the rock-solid base of American life. Instead of quietude, Hattie discovers a town challenged by cell-phone towers, chain stores, and struggling farms. Soon Hattie is joined by an immigrant Cambodian family on the run, and—quite unexpectedly—Carter Hatch, a love from her past.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Thank You, Mr. Nixon* Gish Jen, 2022-11-01 The acclaimed, award-winning author of *The Resisters* takes measure of the fifty years since the opening of China and its unexpected effects on the lives of ordinary people. It is a unique book that only Jen could write—a story collection accruing the power of a novel as it proceeds—a work that Cynthia Ozick has called “an art beyond art. It is life itself.” Beginning with a cheery letter penned by a Chinese girl in heaven to “poor Mr. Nixon” in hell, Gish Jen embarks on a fictional journey through U.S.-China relations, capturing the excitement of a world on the brink of tectonic change. Opal Chen reunites with her Chinese sisters after forty years; newly cosmopolitan Lulu Koo wonders why Americans “like to walk around in the woods with the mosquitoes”; Hong Kong parents go to extreme lengths to reestablish contact with their “number-one daughter” in New York; and Betty Koo, brought up on “no politics, just make money,” finds she must reassess her mother’s philosophy. With their profound compassion and equally profound humor, these eleven linked stories trace the intimate ways in which humans make and are made by history, capturing an extraordinary era in an extraordinary way. Delightful, provocative, and powerful, *Thank You, Mr. Nixon* furnishes yet more proof of Gish Jen’s eminent place among American storytellers.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Mona in the Promised Land* Gish Jen, 2012-08-29 From the acclaimed, award-winning author of *Thank You, Mr. Nixon* comes a “hilariously funny and seriously important” novel (Amy Tan) about American multiculturalism and a Chinese American teenager doing her best to fit in—even if it means converting to Judaism. In these pages, acclaimed author Gish Jen introduces us to teenaged Mona Chang, who in 1968 moves with her newly prosperous family to Scarshill, New York. Here, the Chinese are seen as the new Jews. What could be more natural than for Mona to take this literally—even to the point of converting? As Mona attends temple rap sessions and falls in love (with a nice Jewish boy who lives in a tepee), Jen introduces us to one of the most charming and sweet-spirited heroines in recent fiction, a girl who can wisecrack with perfect aplomb even when she's organizing the help in her father's pancake house. On every page, Gish Jen sets our received notions spinning with a wit as dry as a latter-day Jane Austen's.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *America Street a Multicultural Anthology of Stories* Anne Mazer, 1993-01

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Pop Art* Joe Hill, 2014-09-11 A beautiful story about Art; a living, breathing boy in all respects - who happens to be made of inflatable plastic. POP ART is an exceptional, must-read of a short story. Joe Hill is the New York Times bestselling author of *NOS4A2*, *Horns*, and *Heart-Shaped Box*, and the prize-winning story collection *20th Century Ghosts*. He is also the co-author, with Stephen King, of *In the Tall Grass*.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Unfriended* Rachel Vail, 2015-09-01 In middle school, nothing is more important than friendship. When Truly is invited to sit at the Popular Table with the group she has dreamed of joining, she can hardly believe her luck. Everyone seems so nice, so kind to one another. But all is not as it seems with her new friends, and soon she's caught in a maelstrom of lies, misunderstandings, accusations and counter-accusations, all happening very publicly in the relentless, hyperconnected social media world from which there is no escape. Six eighth-graders, four girls and two boys, struggle to understand and process their fractured glimpses into one another's lives as they find new ways to disconnect, but also to connect, in Rachel Vail's richest and most searching book.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Still Life With Rice* Helie Lee, 1997-04-08 In this radiant memoir of her grandmother's life, Lee recreates a culture that is both seductively exotic and strangely familiar. Lee's desire to recover the family's history, as well as to understand the intricate weave of her own identity, results in the exploration of universal issues such as the complex nature of family

relations and the rapidly changing lives of women in this century. of photos.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Umbrella* Jan Brett, 2004-09-09 A walk through the Costa Rican cloud forest provides a wonderfully lush setting for Jan Brett's beloved animal illustrations. When Carlos drops his umbrella to climb a tree for a better view of the animals, they all cram into the banana-leaf umbrella as it floats by--from the little tree frog to the baby tapir to the big jaguar and more. It gets so crowded in the umbrella that there isn't even enough room for a little hummingbird! So over the umbrella tumbles, everyone falls out, and poor Carlos comes back wondering why he didn't see any animals all day. In the spirit of Jan Brett's *The Mitten* and *The Hat*, this cheerful tale of escalation will have readers poring over every illustration for the world of details Jan packs in. With its classic story, exotic jungle setting, and brilliantly colorful menagerie, *The Umbrella* is sure to take its place among Jan's many family favorites.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Columbia Guide to Asian American Literature Since 1945* Guiyou Huang, 2006-08-08 *The Columbia Guide to Asian American Literature Since 1945*

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Who's Irish?* Gish Jen, 2012-08-29 In this dazzling collection of short stories, the award-winning author of the acclaimed novels *Thank You, Mr. Nixon* and *Mona in the Promised Land*—presents a sparkling ... gently satiric look at the American Dream and its fallout on those who pursue it (*The New York Times*). The stories in *Who's Irish?* show us the children of immigrants looking wonderingly at their parents' efforts to assimilate, while the older generation asks how so much selfless hard work on their part can have yielded them offspring who'd sooner drop out of life than succeed at it. With dazzling wit and compassion, Gish Jen looks at ambition and compromise at century's end and finds that much of the action is as familiar—and as strange—as the things we know to be most deeply true about ourselves.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The White Umbrella* Mary Frances Bowley, 2012-10-01 Stories of survivors of sex-trafficking. Sex trafficking. We hear about it on the nightly news and in special interest stories from around the world, but it occurs daily in communities all around us. Every year, thousands of young women are forced into sexual exploitation. Most are under the age of 18. The damage this causes to their emotions and souls is immeasurable. But they are not without hope. *The White Umbrella* tells stories of survivors as well as those who came alongside to help them to recovery. It describes the pain and the strength of these young women and those who held the “white umbrella” of protection and purity over them on the road to restoration. This book offers principles and guidance to anyone with a heart for these hurting young women and a desire to help. It is an ideal resource for individuals or organizations seeking to learn what they can do to assist these victims in becoming whole again.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Nowhere Man* Aleksandar Hemon, 2009-12-23 In this stylistically adventurous, brilliantly funny tour de force—the most highly acclaimed debut since Nathan Englander's—Aleksandar Hemon writes of love and war, Sarajevo and America, with a skill and imagination that are breathtaking. A love affair is experienced in the blink of an eye as the Archduke Ferdinand watches his wife succumb to an assassin's bullet. An exiled writer, working in a sandwich shop in Chicago, adjusts to the absurdities of his life. Love letters from war-torn Sarajevo navigate the art of getting from point A to point B without being shot. With a surefooted sense of detail and life-saving humor, Aleksandar Hemon examines the overwhelming events of history and the effect they have on individual lives. These heartrending stories bear the unmistakable mark of an important new international writer.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Conversations with Gish Jen* John Zheng, Biling Chen, 2018-10-24 *Conversations with Gish Jen* is the first collection of interviews with the renowned contemporary American author Gish Jen (b. 1955), whose acclaimed fiction and nonfiction have fascinated American readers for more than thirty years. The conversations in this book offer first-hand information not only about Jen's authorial intentions, but also about her life as a daughter of Chinese immigrants. Spanning more than two decades, beginning in 1991 and ending with a new, unpublished interview from 2017, these interviews provide readers a sense of Jen's development as a novelist and cultural critic. Jen's insights into the merits and drawbacks of Eastern and Western

cultures, including American individualism and exceptionalism and Asian interdependent mindset and living principles, provide us with keys to understanding the identity struggles of the author herself as well as her fictional characters. The comparative approach Jen adopts in her comments on such topics as education, politics, business, religion, and concepts of creativity and success provokes readers to reflect on their relationships with themselves, with the society in which they live, and with the rest of the world. At the heart of these conversations is Jen's sense of humor, which makes the book a joyful read for both scholars and casual fans of her work.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Love Wife* Gish Jen, 2004-09-14 From the massively talented, award-winning author of *Thank You, Mr. Nixon* comes "a big story ... about families and identity and race and the American Dream.... Jen's most ambitious and emotionally ample work yet" (The New York Times). The Wongs describe themselves as a "half half" family, but the actual fractions are more complicated, given Carnegie's Chinese heritage, his wife Blondie's WASP background, and the various ethnic permutations of their adopted and biological children. Into this new American family comes a volatile new member. Her name is Lanlan. She is Carnegie's Mainland Chinese relative, a tough, surprisingly lovely survivor of the Cultural Revolution, who comes courtesy of Carnegie's mother's will. Is Lanlan a very good nanny, a heartless climber, or a posthumous gift from a formidable mother who never stopped wanting her son to marry a nice Chinese girl? Rich in insight, buoyed by humor, *The Love Wife* is a hugely satisfying work.

**the white umbrella gish jen: Be Prepared** Vera Brosgol, 2018-04-24 Beautifully drawn, brutally funny, brilliantly honest. Vera is such a good cartoonist I almost can't stand it." —Raina Telgemeier, author of *Smile* In *Be Prepared*, all Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the cool girl drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!

**the white umbrella gish jen: Doing Literary Criticism** Tim Gillespie, 2010 One of the greatest challenges for English language arts teachers today is the call to engage students in more complex texts. Tim Gillespie, who has taught in public schools for almost four decades, has found the lenses of literary criticism a powerful tool for helping students tackle challenging literary texts. Tim breaks down the dense language of critical theory into clear, lively, and thorough explanations of many schools of critical thought--reader response, biographical, historical, psychological, archetypal, genre based, moral, philosophical, feminist, political, formalist, and postmodern. *Doing Literary Criticism* gives each theory its own chapter with a brief, teacher-friendly overview and a history of the approach, along with an in-depth discussion of its benefits and limitations. Each chapter also includes ideas for classroom practices and activities. Using stories from his own English classes--from alternative programs to advance placement and everything in between--Tim provides a wealth of specific classroom-tested suggestions for discussion, essay and research paper topics, recommended texts, exam questions, and more. The accompanying CD offers abbreviated overviews of each theory (designed to be used as classroom handouts, examples of student work, collections of quotes to stimulate discussion and writing, an extended history of women writers, and much more. Ultimately, *Doing Literary Criticism* offers teachers a rich set of materials and tools to help their students become more confident and able readers, writers, and critical thinkers.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Roots and Shadows* Shashi Deshpande, 1992

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Common Ground?* Anthony M. Orum, Zachary Neal, 2009-09-10 Public spaces have long been the focus of urban social activity, but investigations of how public space works often adopt only one of several possible perspectives, which restricts the questions that can be asked and the answers that can be considered. In this volume, Anthony Orum and Zachary Neal explore how public space can be a facilitator of civil order, a site for power and resistance, and a stage for art, theatre, and performance. They bring together these frequently unconnected models for understanding public space, collecting classic and contemporary readings that illustrate each,

and synthesizing them in a series of original essays. Throughout, they offer questions to provoke discussion, and conclude with thoughts on how these models can be combined by future scholars of public space to yield more comprehensive understanding of how public space works.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Late Age of Print* Ted Striphas, Theodore G. Striphas, 2011 Here, the author assesses our modern book culture by focusing on five key elements including the explosion of retail bookstores like Barnes & Noble and Borders, and the formation of the Oprah Book Club.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Teaching Transformation* A. Keating, 2007-06-11 Drawing on indigenous belief systems and recent work in critical 'race' studies and multicultural-feminist theory, Keating provides detailed step-by-step suggestions, based on her own teaching experiences, designed to anticipate and change students' resistance to social-justice issues. It offers a holistic approach to theory and practice.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Freedom in the World 2006* Freedom House, 2006 Freedom in the World, the Freedom House flagship survey whose findings have been published annually since 1972, is the standard-setting comparative assessment of global political rights and civil liberties. The survey ratings and narrative reports on 192 countries and a group of select territories are used by policy makers, the media, international corporations, and civic activists and human rights defenders to monitor trends in democracy and track improvements and setbacks in freedom worldwide. Press accounts of the survey findings appear in hundreds of influential newspapers in the United States and abroad and form the basis of numerous radio and television reports. The Freedom in the World political rights and civil liberties ratings are determined through a multi-layered process of research and evaluation by a team of regional analysts and eminent scholars. The analysts used a broad range of sources of information, including foreign and domestic news reports, academic studies, nongovernmental organizations, think tanks, individual professional contacts, and visits to the region, in conducting their research. The methodology of the survey is derived in large measure from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and these standards are applied to all countries and territories, irrespective of geographical location, ethnic or religious composition, or level of economic development.

**the white umbrella gish jen: Critical Thinking** Gregory Bassham, 2008 Through the use of humour, fun exercises, and a plethora of innovative and interesting selections from writers such as Dave Barry, Al Franken, J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as from the film 'The Matrix', this text hones students' critical thinking skills.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Resisters* Gish Jen, 2020 *The Resisters* is palpably loving, smart, funny, and desperately unsettling. The novel should be required reading for the country both as a cautionary tale and because it is a stone-cold masterpiece. This is Gish Jen's moment. She has pitched a perfect game. --Ann Patchett The time: not so long from now. The place: AutoAmerica. The land: half under water. The Internet: one part artificial intelligence, one part surveillance technology, and oddly human--even funny. The people: Divided. The angel-fair Netted have jobs, and literally occupy the high ground. The Surplus live on swampland if they're lucky, on water if they're not. The story: To a Surplus couple--he once a professor, she still a lawyer--is born a Blasian girl with a golden arm. At two, Gwen is hurling her stuffed animals from the crib; by ten, she can hit whatever target she likes. Her teens find her happily playing in an underground baseball league. When AutoAmerica rejoins the Olympics, though--with a special eye on beating ChinRussia--Gwen attracts interest. Soon she finds herself playing ball with the Netted even as her mother challenges the very foundations of this divided society. A moving and important story of an America that seems ever more possible, *The Resisters* is also the story of one family struggling to maintain its humanity and normalcy in circumstances that threaten their every value--as well as their very existence. Extraordinary and ordinary, charming and electrifying, this is Gish Jen at her most irresistible.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *A Reader's Companion to the Short Story in English* Erin Fallon, R.C. Feddersen, James Kurtzleben, Maurice A. Lee, Susan Rochette-Crawley, 2013-10-31 Although the short story has existed in various forms for centuries, it has particularly flourished during the

last hundred years. Reader's Companion to the Short Story in English includes alphabetically-arranged entries for 50 English-language short story writers from around the world. Most of these writers have been active since 1960, and they reflect a wide range of experiences and perspectives in their works. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and includes biography, a review of existing criticism, a lengthier analysis of specific works, and a selected bibliography of primary and secondary sources. The volume begins with a detailed introduction to the short story genre and concludes with an annotated bibliography of major works on short story theory.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Bone* Fae Myenne Ng, 2015-11-03 This emotional story about family and community follows a young woman living in San Francisco's Chinatown as she navigates lingering conflicts and secrets after her sister's death. We were a family of three girls. By Chinese standards, that wasn't lucky. In Chinatown, everyone knew our story. Outsiders jerked their chins, looked at us, shook their heads. We heard things. In this profoundly moving novel, Fae Myenne Ng takes readers into the hidden heart of San Francisco's Chinatown, to the world of one family's honor, their secrets, and the lost bones of a paper father. Two generations of the Leong family live in an uneasy tension as they try to fathom the source of a brave young girl's sorrow. Oldest daughter Leila tells the story: of her sister Ona, who has ended her young, conflicted life by jumping from the roof of a Chinatown housing project; of her mother Mah, a seamstress in a garment shop run by a Chinese Elvis; of Leon, her father, a merchant seaman who ships out frequently; and the family's youngest, Nina, who has escaped to New York by working as a flight attendant. With Ona and Nina gone, it is up to Leila to lay the bones of the family's collective guilt to rest, and find some way to hope again. Fae Myenne Ng's luminous debut explores what it means to be a stranger in one's own family, a foreigner in one's own neighborhood—and whether it's possible to love a place that may never feel quite like home.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** The Primer of Humor Research Victor Raskin, 2008-11-06 The book is intended to provide a definitive view of the field of humor research for both beginning and established scholars in a variety of fields who are developing an interest in humor and need to familiarize themselves with the available body of knowledge. Each chapter of the book is devoted to an important aspect of humor research or to a disciplinary approach to the field, and each is written by the leading expert or emerging scholar in that area. There are two primary motivations for the book. The positive one is to collect and summarize the impressive body of knowledge accumulated in humor research in and around *Humor: The International Journal of Humor Research*. The negative motivation is to prevent the embarrassment to and from the first-timers, often established experts in their own field, who venture into humor research without any notion that there already exists a body of knowledge they need to acquire before publishing anything on the subject—unless they are in the business of reinventing the wheel and have serious doubts about its being round! The organization of the book reflects the main groups of scholars participating in the increasingly popular and high-powered humor research movement throughout the world, an 800 to 1,000-strong contingent, and growing. The chapters are organized along the same lines: History, Research Issues, Main Directions, Current Situation, Possible Future, Bibliography—and use the authors' definitive credentials not to promote an individual view, but rather to give the reader a good comprehensive and condensed view of the area.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Girl at the Baggage Claim* Gish Jen, 2017 A ... study of the different idea Asians and Westerners have of the self and how this plays out in our differing approaches to art, learning, politics, business, and almost everything else—

**the white umbrella gish jen:** My Mother's Daughter Irene Zahava, 1991

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Best American Short Stories of the Century* John Updike, 1999 The incomparable John Updike selects the 55 finest short stories from America's bestselling anthology, published since 1915.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *The Landlady (A Roald Dahl Short Story)* Roald Dahl, 2012-09-13 The Landlady is a brilliant gem of a short story from Roald Dahl, the master of the sting in the tail. In *The Landlady*, Roald Dahl, one of the world's favourite authors, tells a sinister story



about the darker side of human nature. Here, a young man in need of room meets a most accommodating landlady . . . The Landlady is taken from the short story collection Kiss Kiss, which includes ten other devious and shocking stories, featuring the wife who pawns the mink coat from her lover with unexpected results; the priceless piece of furniture that is the subject of a deceitful bargain; a wronged woman taking revenge on her dead husband, and others. 'Unnerving bedtime stories, subtle, proficient, hair-raising and done to a turn.' (San Francisco Chronicle ) This story is also available as a Penguin digital audio download read by Tamsin Greig. Roald Dahl, the brilliant and worldwide acclaimed author of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, and many more classics for children, also wrote scores of short stories for adults. These delightfully disturbing tales have often been filmed and were most recently the inspiration for the West End play, Roald Dahl's Twisted Tales by Jeremy Dyson. Roald Dahl's stories continue to make readers shiver today.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Migrants and Literature in Finland and Sweden* Satu Gröndahl, Eila Rantonen, 2018-10-11 *Migrants and Literature in Finland and Sweden* presents new comparative perspectives on transnational literary studies. This collection provides a contribution to the production of new narratives of the nation. The focus of the contributions is contemporary fiction relating to experiences of migration. When people are in motion, it changes nations, cultures and peoples. The volume explores the ways in which transcultural connections have affected the national self-understanding in the Swedish and Finnish context. It also presents comparative aspects on the reception of literary works and explores the intersectional perspectives of identities including class, gender, ethnicity, race and disability. This volume discusses multicultural writing, emerging modes of writing and generic innovations. Further, it also demonstrates the complexity of grouping literatures according to nation and ethnicity. This collection is of particular interest to students and scholars in literary and Nordic studies as well as transnational and migration studies.

**the white umbrella gish jen: Fundamentalism and Education in the Scopes Era** A. Laats, 2010-05-24 This book takes a new look at one of the most contentious periods in American history. The battles over schools that surrounded the famous Scopes monkey trial in 1925 were about much more than evolution. Fundamentalists fought to maintain cultural control of education. As this book reveals for the first time, the successes and the failures of these fundamentalist campaigns transformed both the fundamentalist movement and the nature of education in America. In turn, those transformations determined many of the positions of the culture wars that raged throughout the twentieth century.

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Nature's Green Umbrella* Gail Gibbons, 1997-04-24 A scientifically accurate book which depicts the complex world of rain forests in easily understood text and sumptuous illustrations. The geography, climate and ecology of the rain forest are explained and the illustrations teem with the flora and fauna.--Children's Literature. ???

**the white umbrella gish jen:** *Moose Street* Anne Mazer, 2015-04-14 Welcome to Moose Street Lena Rosen is eleven years old, and her life is pretty typical. From babysitting her little sister to spending time with friends to sticking up for the class outcast to sneaking off to buy candy from the corner store, she is just like all of the other kids on her block. Except for one thing—she's Jewish. Lena's family is the only one on all of Moose Street that isn't Catholic or Protestant. "You're the ones who killed Christ," her classmates tell her. Lena knows that they're wrong, but she can't help feeling different. Anne Mazer's captivating novel of youth, difference, and acceptance is a must-read.

**the white umbrella gish jen: The Truth of You** Iain S. Thomas, 2021-03-23 This is the truth of you. Because you are all I see. Because you are all I breathe. Because when I cannot find you, I am lost. Because when I'm with you, I am found. Because you have the fire of the universe in you, and sometimes you forget. So this book is here to remind you. Dear You, I want you to know that I see you. I want you to know that even if no one else does, even if you are a ghost in this bookshop, or just the static floating across the screen of your computer, wherever you're reading this, I see you. I see you in the dark and I see you in the grey. I see you as a story, as words I have spoken or may yet speak. Maybe only in a memory or a dream. I see your hands and your arms and your body and your

legs and your face and I see what you have been and what you will be. I see you and in looking at you, I want you to know that whoever you've had to be to survive all this, I will not look away. I want you to know that there's a space inside this book for you. So if you have the time and the inclination, you can sit here with me, just for a while. And perhaps between us, we can see everything that matters. -pleasefindthis

**the white umbrella gish jen: The Cinema of Attractions Reloaded** Wanda Strauven, 2006  
Twenty years ago, noted film scholars Tom Gunning and André Gaudreault introduced the phrase "cinema of attractions" to describe the essential qualities of films made in the medium's earliest days, those produced between 1895 and 1906. Now, *The Cinema of Attractions Reloaded* critically examines the term and its subsequent wide-ranging use in film studies. The collection opens with a history of the term, tracing the collaboration between Gaudreault and Gunning, the genesis of the term in their attempts to explain the spectacular effects of motion that lay at the heart of early cinema, and the pair's debts to Sergei Eisenstein and others. This reconstruction is followed by a look at applications of the term to more recent film productions, from the works of the Wachowski brothers to virtual reality and video games. With essays by an impressive collection of international film scholars—and featuring contributions by Gunning and Gaudreault as well—*The Cinema of Attractions Reloaded* will be necessary reading for all scholars of early film and its continuing influence.

**the white umbrella gish jen: Lamb to the Slaughter (A Roald Dahl Short Story)** Roald Dahl, 2012-09-13  
*Lamb to the Slaughter* is a short, sharp, chilling story from Roald Dahl, the master of the shocking tale. In *Lamb to the Slaughter*, Roald Dahl, one of the world's favourite authors, tells a twisted story about the darker side of human nature. Here, a wife serves up a dish that utterly baffles the police . . . *Lamb to the Slaughter* is taken from the short story collection *Someone Like You*, which includes seventeen other devious and shocking stories, featuring the two men who make an unusual and chilling wager over the provenance of a bottle of wine; a curious machine that reveals the horrifying truth about plants; the man waiting to be bitten by the venomous snake asleep on his stomach; and others. 'The absolute master of the twist in the tale.' (Observer ) This story is also available as a Penguin digital audio download read by Juliet Stevenson. Roald Dahl, the brilliant and worldwide acclaimed author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Matilda*, and many more classics for children, also wrote scores of short stories for adults. These delightfully disturbing tales have often been filmed and were most recently the inspiration for the West End play, *Roald Dahl's Twisted Tales* by Jeremy Dyson. Roald Dahl's stories continue to make readers shiver today.

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