

Reading Selection

Inventing Umbrellas

When Katie Harding was only five years old, she became an inventor.

An inventor figures out how to make something new, something that no one else has ever made before.

Katie figured out how to make a special kind of umbrella.

She called her invention a “Mud Puddle Spotter.”

What is a “Mud Puddle Spotter”?

Why did Katie invent it?

On rainy mornings when she walked to kindergarten, Katie carried a regular umbrella. But sometimes she did not see puddles as she walked along. When she accidentally stepped in the puddles, she got quite wet. Her umbrella could not help Katie with that problem. Or could it? Katie had an idea.



“What about putting a light on my umbrella,” she thought.
“A light would help me see the puddles on dark rainy mornings.”

With her mother’s help, Katie attached a flashlight to her umbrella. Her idea worked!
Her invention helped her spot puddles as she walked to school. Katie even won a prize for her “Mud Puddle Spotter” in a contest for young inventors.

The very first umbrella was invented a long, long time ago. It was probably made in China about three thousand years before Katie made her “Mud Puddle Spotter.”
We do not know the name of the person who invented the first umbrella. But since then, many other people have been interested in making umbrellas. One of these people was Sir Jonas Hanway.

Sir Jonas lived in England about 250 years ago. He was a businessman, and he often traveled to other countries. When he went traveling, he saw people using umbrellas. In England, most people did not have umbrellas. They were expensive, and no factories made them. He knew umbrellas were useful, and he wanted people in his own country to be able to buy them.

Every day, Sir Jonas took a walk around London.

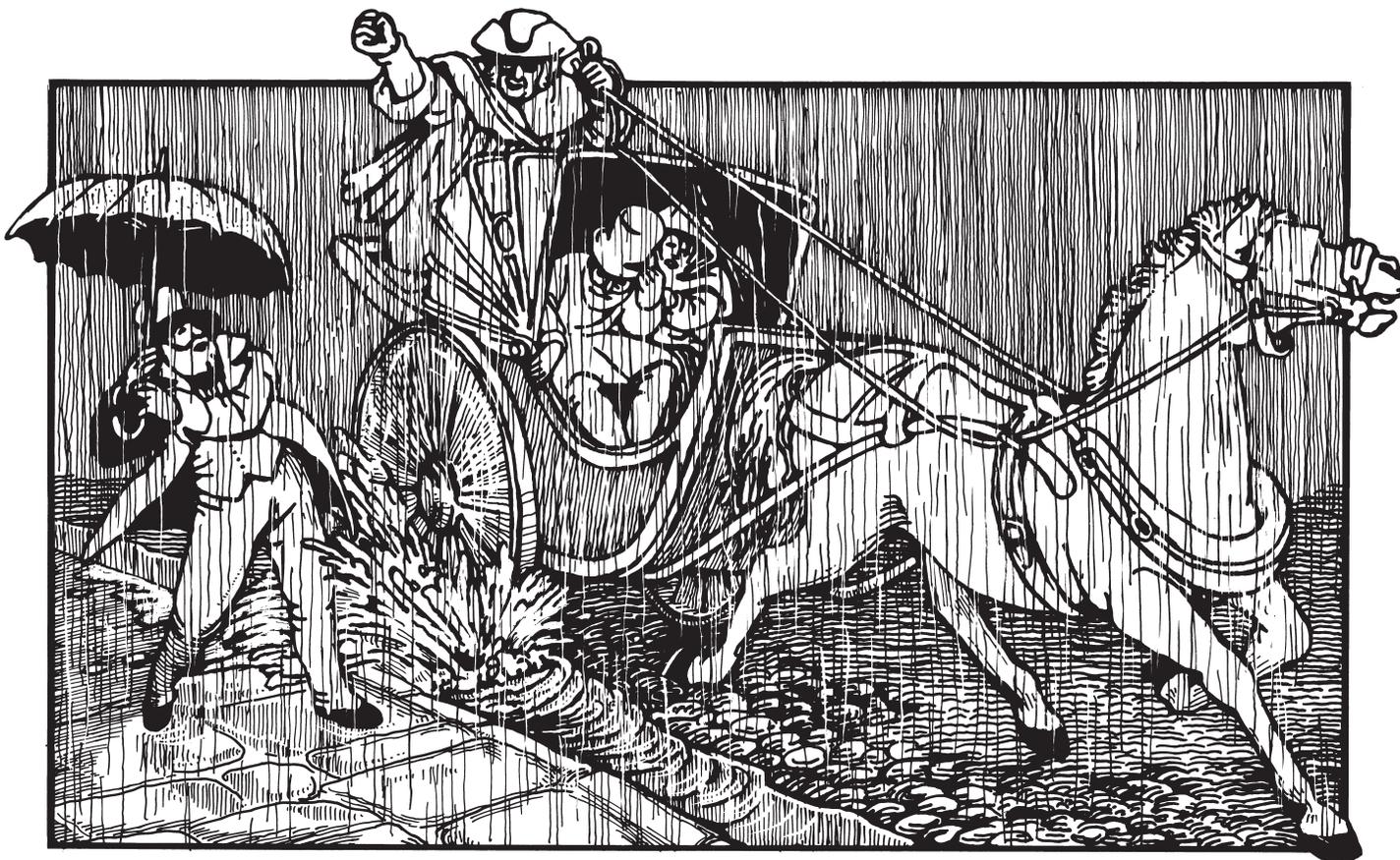
He always carried an umbrella.

The drivers of horse-drawn coaches were unhappy with Sir Jonas.

They wanted people to use coaches on rainy days, not umbrellas.

Some of them even drove through puddles and splashed him.

But that did not stop him from taking his daily walks, umbrella in hand.



Sir Jonas also kept saying that all the people of London should be able to have umbrellas to protect them from the rain. And before he died, factories had been built to make umbrellas for the people in England. These umbrellas became very popular. They were named for Sir Jonas. They were called “Hanways.”

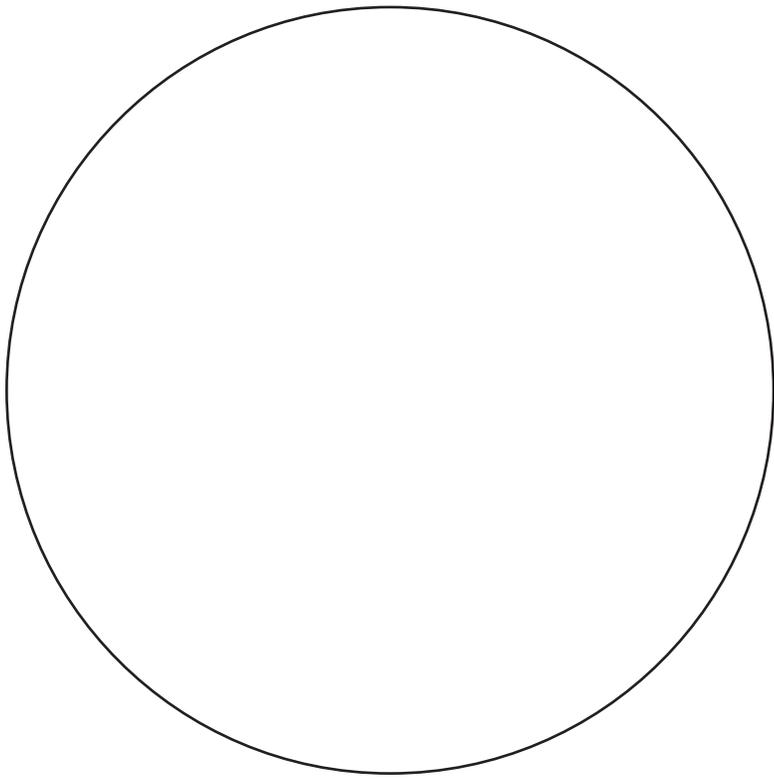
People seem to keep finding new ways to make umbrellas. If you could invent a new kind of umbrella, what would it look like?



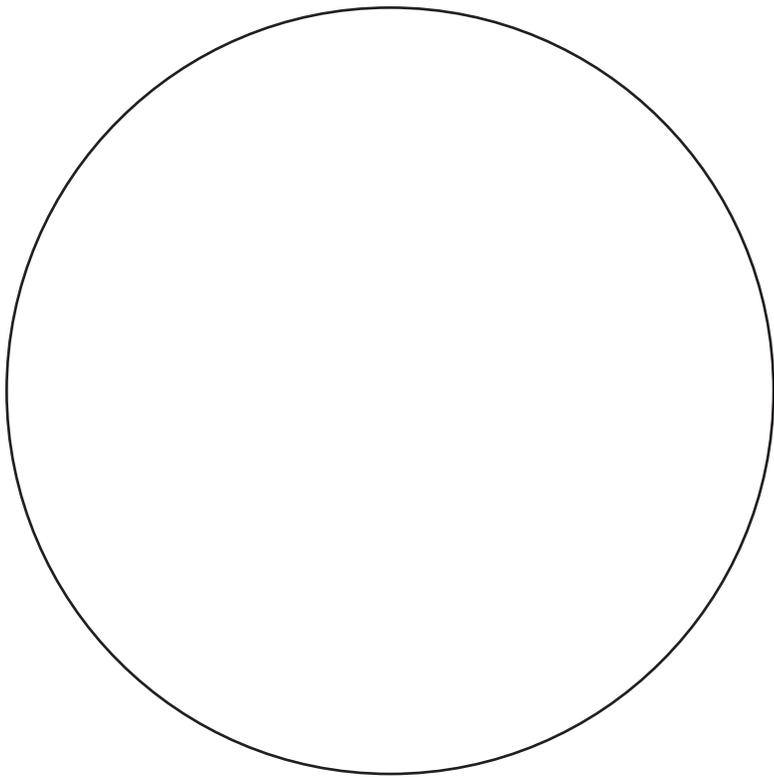
My Puddle Book

BY _____

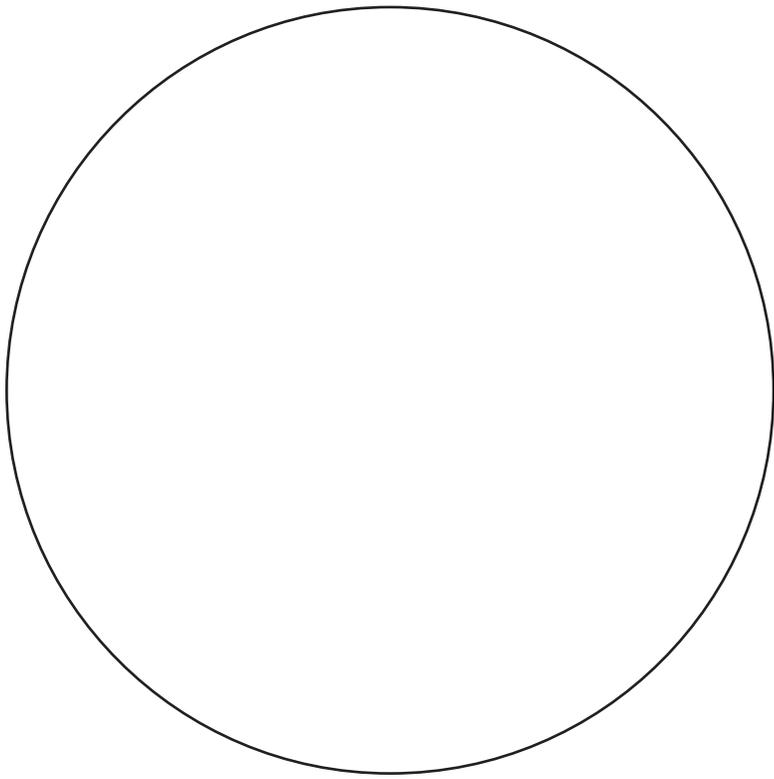
Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____

Where did the water go?
