



Emma's Rug

Allen Say

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Emma is a gifted young artist whose most prized possession is a small, shaggy rug. When her mother accidentally puts the rug in the washing machine and destroys it, Emma is devastated and ceases her art.

Emma's Rug Details

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Author : Allen Say

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From Reader Review Emma's Rug for online ebook

Tisha says

The story is about a little girl who somehow builds up an emotional connection with a rug she was gifted by someone when she was born. She grows up as a very talented girl who loves to draw and used to paint much better than the other kids of her age. This would make people very amazed.

But one day everything changes as she comes back home from school and finds her beloved rug is not at its usual place.

The book has the regular Allen Say charm. But it was a pretty unusual from the others I have read recently. Well, the connection between Emma and her rug was a bit mysterious and unclear. I assumed that it was more like a child psychology thing! You know, kids can have very unusual imaginations sometimes and probably Emma was experiencing the same thing!

The illustrations were brilliant as always. I could literally stare at those for hours! However, I would have loved it more if the ending wasn't this abrupt!

Haley Johnson says

This book included amazing illustrations. The story was interesting and the ending makes readers think. I would read this to a fourth or fifth grade class because it does require higher level thinking.

Adoria Kelley says

This is about an art prodigy who gets her inspiration from a very unusual place. I would use this book with a creative activity to try and encourage students to think outside the box.

RLL2202017_Roxanna Jasso says

This story talks about a little, girl, her favorite rug since birth, and the discovery of her talent; painting. Throughout the story, the rug remains the same since her birth and Emma later kept it hidden in her bottom drawer. She continues her talent which later she gets recognize so much, the Mayor asked for her to be taken to the Museum of Art. During that visit, her mother finds her rug and washes it, in result, Emma is devastated and doesn't paint and draw no more. Until the end, she starts to draw again because she is reconnected to an unseen presence she thought she had lost. This story is short and simple and I would recommend it for grade levels 1st and up.

Kari says

Emma's Rug, written and illustrated by Allen Say, resonated with me as a portrayal of someone with different abilities than my own; by the end of the story I thought Emma might be on the autism spectrum.

The story describes the daughter of a mother and father who develops an attachment and reverence for a rug she was gifted as a baby. While it is present in her life, she quietly develops her own artistic expression that is publicly recognized and rewarded. When the essence of the rug changes, she ceases to create, she withdraws, and she discards the evidence of her life when the rug existed.

Something switches for her at this point; like a phoenix rising from the ashes of her loss, she blossoms into a new art period that draws inspiration from the creatures she envisions from the nature around her. We do not know that she is any less autistic, but she has connected with new ideas afresh.

In a respect, this could offer a mirror to an autistic child, but autism runs a spectrum, and no two children will exhibit it in the same way. At the same time, it is important that we acknowledge that differences are normal, and Say does this in telling Emma's story--she is a child, she is a student, she makes art, she is rewarded for an accomplishment, and she chooses her direction in life (in this case, artistic expression). She may look at the world differently than I do, but she has her own reasons (her rug) just as my life experiences shape my worldview.

This book belongs in a diverse collection of children's literature for its inclusion of an autistic child who happens to be Asian.

Miss.Amanda.Reading says

I love the thinking that goes along with this story. How the reader/listener has to puzzle out what is really going on. The ending is perfect for the story.

Lisa Vegan says

The illustrations are lovely, just gorgeous. I especially like the second to last one when Emma goes outside and becomes part of the foliage.

This is a wonderful story, with a somewhat too abrupt ending I thought, but it works okay enough. Emma is a gifted artist from a young age, and it's interesting to see how she attributes her talent and abilities and how she discovers the truth.

This is a great book for any child as they can see another child discover what's within her.

I see that this illustrator/author has done much other work and I'm very eager to check out his other books.

Courtney Lau says

This is a story about a little girl and a rug shes had since she was a baby. She believed that the rug allowed her to see special things which is why she was so good at art. This is a great good for talking about inspiration and not giving up.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

What an odd story. Young Emma is a gifted artist who takes her inspiration from the objects she "sees" in a plain white rug. What happens when her mother washes the rug, and she can no longer "see" things in it? I love Allen Say's illustrations, of course. I'd love to know if this is based upon a real child he knows or has heard of. If the story doesn't appeal, read it for the illustrations.

Tom Franklin says

Such a fine book about a young child's first muse and her ability to find her next one.

Molly Cluff (Library!) says

This one felt super literary, like I needed to dissect it when I finished.

Veronica Jackson says

Great book about a young girl who found art in a rug that was given to her at a young age. The rug allowed Emma to see objects that motivated her to become a good artist.

I would use this book to teach my students about inspiration and that people are inspired by different things.

Jasmine Jacobs says

This would be a useful tool in the classroom because many students could relate to. Many students will have a keepsake that they will need to function just like Emma needed her rug. It also teaches students to find inspiration and comfort in other things too.

Mariel says

Emma's Rug by Allen Say

This was a very cute book. It starts off by telling about a rug that was given to Emma for her nursery. Once Emma was grown enough to walk around the rug became like her favorite toy/blankie. Instead of her playing with it, she would just look into it. It became Emma's muse and she would start to create paintings of the things she would see in her rug. One day her mom washed her rug and Emma's muse lost its touch, so she thought. She then discovered that she really didn't need the rug for her imagination to come out, and she had her artistic talent back. This book was very curious, and I love how Emma had such an imagination, but she was so quiet and very mysterious. The age range for this book is 6-9, but I feel that some words in this book such as tapir and pangolin are a little too advanced for some kids. I read this book to my nephew and he didn't know what those words even meant and to be honest I didn't either. I had to look them up in order to explain it. Over all though it was a very cute book.

Ashley B. says

This is a story about a talented young girl who loves to draw and paint. She would draw and paint everyday at school and she was rewarded for her talents by winning trophies and ribbons for her works. When she was asked where her inspiration came from she said she just copies what she sees. She would look at a rug she got when she was just a little girl for hours and that is where she got her ideas for her pictures. She was distraught when her mother washed her rug, but Emma soon realized there is inspiration all over. Emma just needed to look around and see the faces in the clouds and the animals in the bushes. She continued to do what she loved.
