

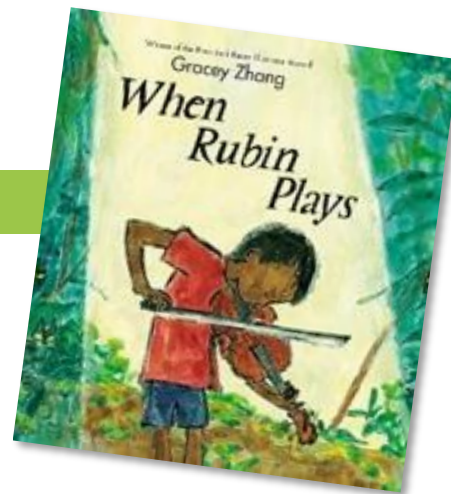
When Rubin Plays

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Imagination, Music

Book Brief: Rubin loves the beautiful sounds that are played by the orchestra. He wants to learn to play the violin and make his own music. But when Rubin plays, it doesn't sound like he imagines it should. Rubin goes into the forest to practice alone; he finds an unlikely audience that loves his unique style.

Author:
Gracey Zhang
Illustrator:
Gracey Zhang



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the cover. What is Rubin doing in the picture? What instrument is he playing?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see, think, or wonder about the story.

Vocabulary: [Vocabulary Guide](#)

Prior Knowledge: What do you know about music? Allow students to share things they know about music genres, instruments and history. Write these facts on an anchor chart or whiteboard.

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about how Rubin’s imagination impacts his passion for music.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- After hearing his sister play, what did Rubin dream of doing?
- How do people react to Rubin playing?
- What animals gathered when Rubin played?
- What happened when Rubin played in the concert?
- What happened when Rubin finished playing?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did Rubin use his imagination to inspire real life goals? What can we learn from Rubin’s determination to play?

Extending Our Thinking: How can we use our imagination to help with our creativity? Ask students to create illustrations of themselves doing a creative activity.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.