



# KAMISHIBAI MAN

AUTHOR: ALLEN SAY

ILLUSTRATOR: ALLEN SAY

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Kamishibai Man](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

The Kamishibai man used to ride his bicycle into town where he would tell stories to the children and sell them candy, but gradually, fewer and fewer children came running at the sound of his clappers. They were all watching their new televisions instead. Finally, only one boy remained, and he had no money for candy. Years later, the Kamishibai man and his wife made another batch of candy, and he pedaled into town to tell one more story—his own. When he comes out of the reverie of his memories, he looks around to see he is surrounded by familiar faces—the children he used to entertain have returned, all grown up and more eager than ever to listen to his delightful tales

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Allen Say was born in Yokohama, Japan in 1937 to a Japanese family: a Japanese American mother born in San Francisco and a Korean father who was adopted by British parents and raised in Shanghai. At age 12, four years after his parents' divorced, Say went to live with his maternal grandmother, but received her permission a short time later to live alone. The boy apprenticed himself for many years to a cartoonist. When his father decided to move to the United States with his new family, Say was invited to come along. He attended military school for a short time, an experience that was decidedly negative: "I learned bad English from rich juvenile delinquents and developed a lifelong loathing for uniforms and professional soldiers." He was eventually expelled for smoking a cigarette. Afterward, Say enrolled himself at Citrus Union High School, where he was able to continue his studies in art and graduated in 1956. In the years before becoming a full-time author and illustrator, Say worked as a sign painter and photographer, as well as being drafted into the U.S. Army for a time. While stationed in Germany, his photography was noted and eventually published in the Stars and Stripes magazine. He was encouraged to explore his illustrations. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen\\_Say](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allen_Say))

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

(see above)

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

## KAMISHIBAI MAN

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Aging
- Change
- Technology
- Japan

*Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- I notice many things on the cover with which I am not familiar. What do you see?
- I wonder why the box is sitting on a bicycle?
- This book was written about a favorite personal memory

## DURING THE STORY

*Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

- (p. 3) (reader: read aloud the first three paragraphs of the foreword) What do you think the foreword is meant to do?
- (p. 4) I wonder what “Going on my rounds” means?
- (p. 8) How did Jichan’s mood change when he got to the city? I wonder what changed his mood?
- (p. 12) How did opening the box, patting the paintings, and thanking his wife, change Jichan’s mood?
- (p. 15) I wonder what, “I can see you now” tells the reader.
- (p. 17) Who is listening to the stories? Why did the children like to hear the stories?
- (p. 18) Why do you think the boy said he didn’t like candy?
- (p. 19) What attracted the people to the front of the shop? What are the moving pictures they were watching?
- (p. 21) Jichan’s expression seems different. Is there a reason for this?
- (p. 27) Although we see the back of the man, how do we know it is still Jichan?
- (p. 27) Who are all the adults clapping their hands?
- (p.30) How did the man’s wife feel when she saw her husband on television?

## AFTER READING

*Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- Did the foreword I read to you help you understand the story better?
- What was the author’s message?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Do you know someone who brings the joy of stories to you?
- Is there an older person in your life who you look forward to seeing?
- Can you remember something that made you happy when you were smaller?
- How did you feel when the people started clapping?
- If you saw Jichan telling stories, do you think you would stop to listen?
- Is there anything you might personally change after hearing this story?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- We are going to be storytellers. One person begins telling the story and the next one continues (one sentence each) until the story is complete. You have to listen carefully to your classmates

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- How is live performance different from other kinds of entertainment?
- Why does Jichan’s wife turn off the television?
- What do you think Jichan is going to do each day?
- Why do you think you can use your imagination more when reading a book than watching television?
- How do you think Jichan earned his living when he was younger? Who is going to listen to Jichan’s stories?
- What kinds of inventions do you think there will be in the future?

### Suggested Optional Activity:

- Make a cause/ effect chart of at least 6 things you heard in the story. Illustrate these.

## 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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- Write Jichan a note from the boy who said he didn't like candies. Write from the perspective of Jichan when he was a little boy or as a grown up.

## 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Have children design a Kaishibai theater. This can be done with boxes or paper. Cut holes in them so that their story slides are visible. Decorate the theater and make slides to be displayed in the theater. Perform the stories for the class

## COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL 3.1,3.2, 3.3,3.4,3.6,3.7