

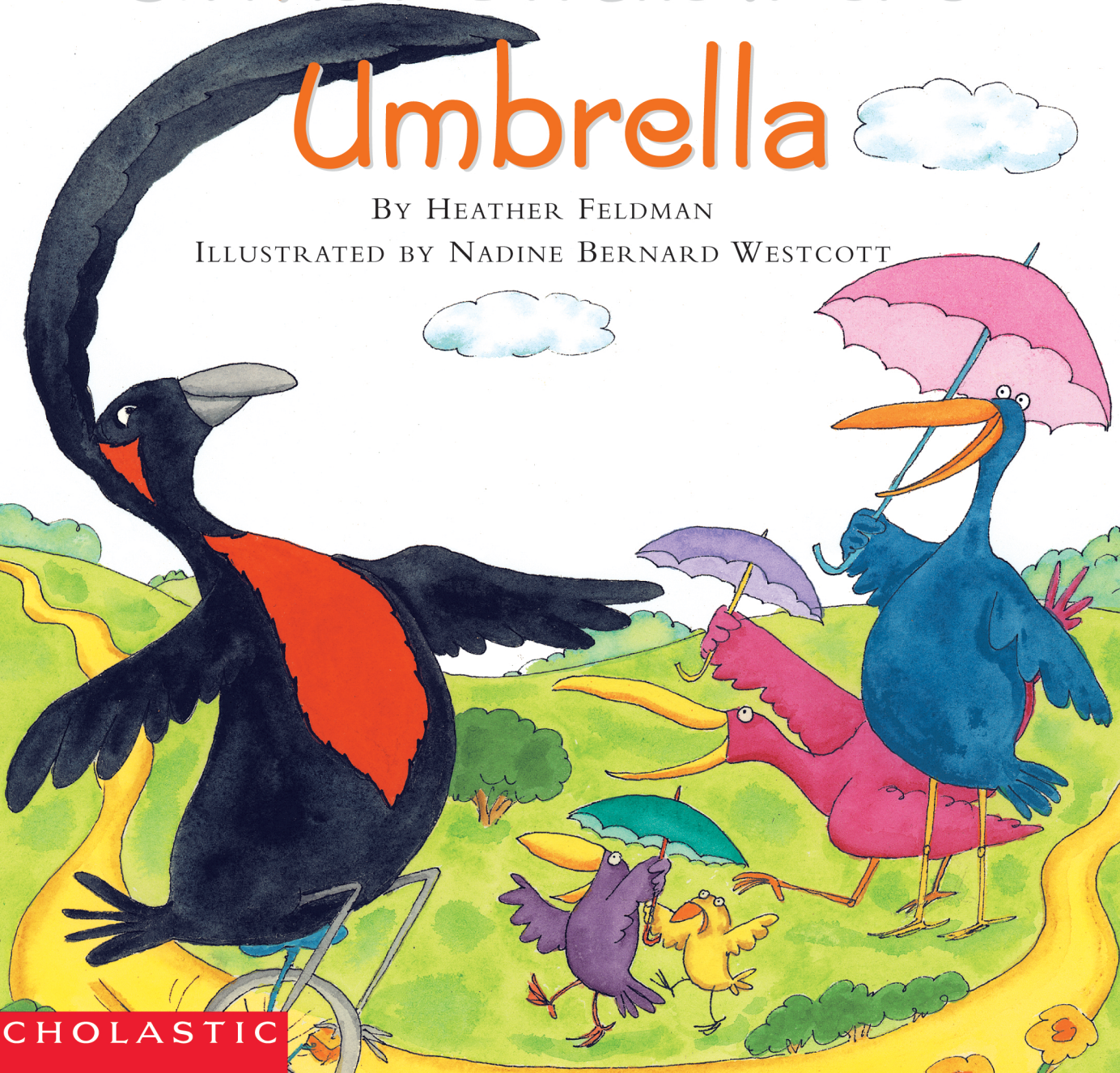
AlphaTales

Uu

Umbrellabird's Umbrella

BY HEATHER FELDMAN

ILLUSTRATED BY NADINE BERNARD WESTCOTT



AlphaTales: Umbrellabird's Umbrella © Scholastic Teaching Resources

For Joshua and Jeremy.



No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher.

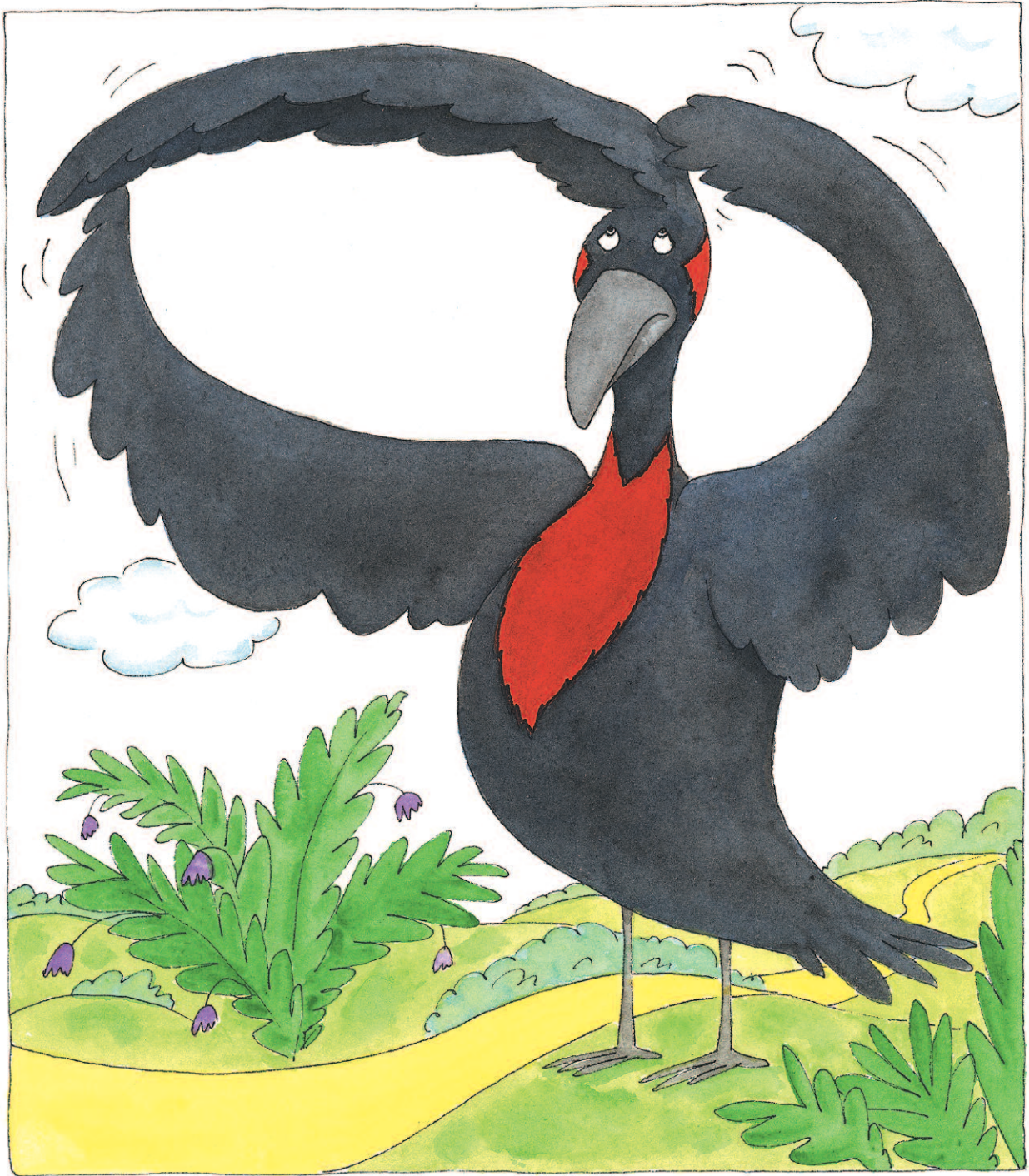
For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc., 555 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

Produced by Imagination Ink., based on a design by Kathy Massaro.

ISBN: 0-439-16544-X

Copyright © 2001 by Scholastic Inc.

All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.



Umbrellabird is unlike any other bird.
He has very unusual feathers.



The other birds tease Umbrellabird about his unusual feathers. They think his feathers look like a giant umbrella.



“Why is your umbrella up?”
the other birds ask Umbrellabird.
“Is it going to rain today?”



The teasing makes Umbrellabird very unhappy. He tries to hide his feathers under a hat. But it is no use. His umbrella always pops up.



One day, Umbrellabird decides to visit his uncle. He hops on his unicycle and pedals uptown.



“Look at those ugly feathers!”
the other birds call as Umbrellabird rides by.
Umbrellabird pretends not to hear them.



He looks up at the sky
and keeps on pedaling.
“Uh-oh!” says Umbrellabird.
He sees dark clouds, way up high.



Suddenly, it begins to pour.
But Umbrellabird notices that he
is not getting wet. Umbrellabird's umbrella
is keeping him dry!



The other birds look for a dry place.
Umbrellabird calls to them.
“Come under my umbrella.
It’s dry under here!”



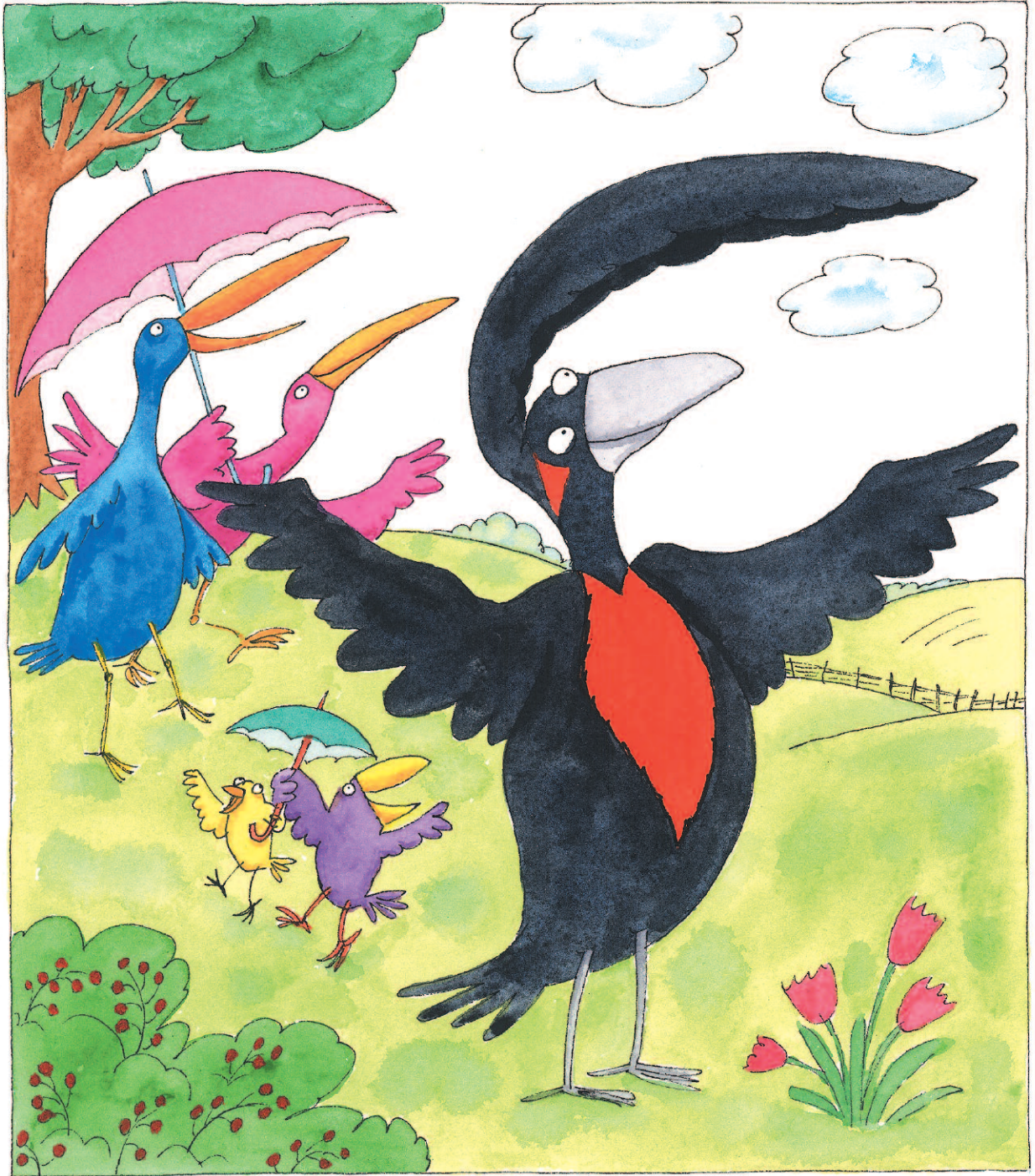
“Quickly! Quickly!” says Umbrellabird as the other birds duck under his feathers. The birds stay under Umbrellabird’s umbrella until the rain stops.



All the birds thank Umbrellabird.
“Your wonderful umbrella kept us dry,” they say.
“We are sorry we upset you with our teasing.
We wish we had umbrellas like you!”



Now Umbrellabird holds his head up high when he is out riding his unicycle.



And sometimes, Umbrellabird even wishes for a little rain!

How many things can you find that begin with the letter U?





See page 19 for answers.

Uu Cheer

U is for umbrellabird and an umbrella
to share

U is for unicycle and underwear

U is for unicorn, umpire, and us

U is for uncle and uptown bus








Hooray for **U**, big and small—
the most unbelievable letter of all!



Reading Tips

U u

Here are some quick and fun ways to use this story to help children build important alphabet recognition skills.

-  Ask children to find big U and small u at the top of the front cover. Review the long U/u and short U/u sounds with children. Can they find two words in the title that begin with the letter U/u? Read the title aloud, emphasizing the U/u sound as appropriate.
-  Flip the book over and read the story summary on the back cover. Ask children to point out words they hear or see that begin with U/u. Explain that the story you are about to read includes many more words that begin with the letter U/u. Can they help you find them?
-  Read the story aloud once for pleasure and enjoy together the whimsical illustrations. Then reread the book, emphasizing the initial U/u sound in the appropriate words. Ask children to listen closely for and identify all the words that start with U/u. Point out these words in the text, and make a list of them.
-  Write each of the words from your list on an unlined index card. Read each word on the cards aloud with children. On another reading of the story, children can match the words on the index cards with the words in the story.
-  Pages 16-17 of the book depict a busy scene full of U/u words. Some of these words have been introduced in the story, but a few are new. Ask children to find as many U/u words as they can. Add any new words to your list. The U/u words depicted in the scene include: umbrellabird, umbrella, unicycle, uniform, unicorn. (Children may come up with other U/u words on their own!)
-  Read aloud the cheer on page 18 several times, with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Invite children to join you in reciting the cheer when they feel ready. Encourage them to find any new U/u words in the cheer. Again, add these words to your list.
-  Don't let your exploration of the letter U/u end with the story! Display your list of words in a place where children can easily see it. During the rest of the day or week, children can add new U/u words that they encounter in other books, on signs, on food labels, and so on.

Uu

Umbrellabird is very unhappy. The other birds tease him about his unusual feathers. But one day, the birds see just how useful an umbrella can be.



AlphaTales[®] are humorous stories designed to help young children recognize letters and the sounds they make. Lay the foundation for reading success with these kid-pleasing books — one for each letter of the alphabet!