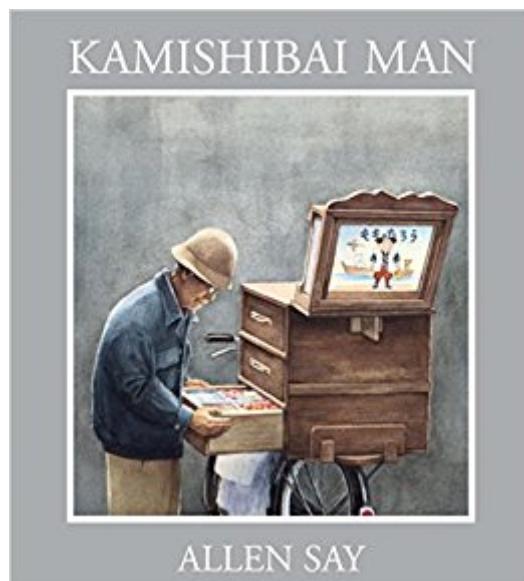


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# Kamishibai Man



## **Synopsis**

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. Using two very different yet remarkable styles of art, Allen Say tells a tale within a tale, transporting readers seamlessly to the Japan of his memories.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD690L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (October 24, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618479546

ISBN-13: 978-0618479542

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.4 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #123,333 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Starred Review. Grade 1-5—An elderly kamishibai (paper theater) man decides to return to the city and spend the day on his former rounds. His wife makes candies for him, just as in the past, and he sets off on his bicycle. Things have changed—there's traffic with honking horns and he wonders, Who needs to buy so many things and eat so many different foods? when he sees the shops and restaurants replacing beautiful trees that have been cut. He sets up his theater and begins to tell his personal story of being a kamishibai man in a flashback sequence. Soon he is surrounded by adults who remember him and his stories from their youth. Ironically, that night he is

featured on the news on television—âœthe very technology that replaced him. Say's distinctive style and facial expressions are especially touching. A foreword gives readers a glimpse of the importance of the kamishibai man in the author's early life, and an afterword provides a historical look at the forgotten art form. The power of the story and the importance of the storyteller are felt in this nostalgic piece that makes readers think about progress. Those interested in storytelling and theater will be especially impressed with this offering, but it will have broad appeal.âœHelen Foster James, University of California at San Diego Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 1-3. In a foreword, Say explains that Kamishibai means "paper theater" and that years ago Kamishibai men were itinerant storytellers who traveled around Japan on bicycles with a big, wooden box mounted on the back seat. The box contained a miniature theater, and beneath it were drawers of candy that the performer sold to eke out a living. As a storyteller spun his tale, he used picture cards to illustrate dramatic points, finishing each time with a cliffhanger designed to entice the children in his audience to come back another time to hear the continuation of the story. Say's lovely new book is about an elderly Kamishibai man, long retired, who, missing his rounds, decides to pedal back to the old neighborhood for one last performance. The story-within-a-story that emerges reveals why this unique type of performance art has all but disappeared. The quietly dramatic, beautifully evocative tale contains a cliffhanger of its own, and its exquisite art, in the style of Kamishibai picture cards, will attract even the most jaded kid away from the TV to enjoy a good, good book. Michael CartCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

Perfect for my 2nd graders.

I have beeen reading this story to 6-8 year olds for 6 years. The best recommendation I can give is that the children think it is a wonderful story and they often clap at the ending . It is the story of storytellers in Japan before the days of television. Kamishibai, which means theater, could be seen on the streets of Japan telling stories to children from their little box theaters. Then TV came along and made the Kamishibai men somewhat obsolete.

I appreciate this book mostly for the illustrations, though it is certainly well-written as well. The real fan is my daughter though - she was deeply moved by the story and connected to it in a way I would

not have guessed. The author is also the artist; if you can enjoy detailed illustration and sensitive, nuanced writing, you will likely value and enjoy this book.

This charming story was the perfect introduction for reading the Kamishibi story of THE BAMBOO PRINCESS to my music students. I played Japanese music to accompany both stories and the children were mesmerized!

My grandson asked for this book for Christmas. We read it together and it is an absolute treasure. Essentially, it is about the passage of time, how things change, and how, sometimes, precious meaning and memories can be brought back to brilliant and joyful life. It is a tale lovingly told and rendered.

As a nostalgic person with a respect for history, this book touched my heartstrings. Our young children paid close attention, admired the story, the breathtaking illustrations, and grasped the emotions and lessons of the book. As we raise children to respect tradition, history, and their elders, this is a good "assist."

2-yr-old daughter loved it

I absolutely love this book. My youngest (kindergarten) loves this book too. Beautiful pictures, touching story, learn a little about japan. I recommend this book.

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