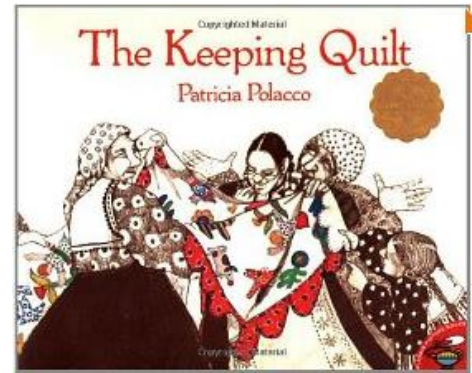


The Keeping Quilt

Written by: Patricia Polacco



This story traces the creation of a quilt made from clothing items of family members. After it is made, the quilt continues to play an important part in the family. It is passed from generation to generation.

Possible strategies for instruction:

Comprehension:

- **Make a picture or mental image**
 - Have the students imagine the quilt as the book is read.
- **Compare and contrast within and between text**
 - Use the following ideas from the story to practice this strategy:
 - The items given to the woman during a wedding proposal over generations.
 - The celebrating at weddings over time.
 - The items given to new babies over generations.
- **Recognize literary elements:**
 - Where does the story take place?
 - Who are the characters?
 - When does this story take place?

Accuracy:

- **Cross checking:**
 - Page 10: When reading the sentence, "...and a piece of rock salt all tied into a linen handkerchief." Read it as, "...and a piece of rock salt all tied into a linen handcarchef."
 - Ask the students if they have ever heard of a handcarchef?
 - Change the pronunciation to handkerchief.
 - Ask the students if this way sounds better.
 - Page 15: "Men and women celebrated together...", mispronounce celebrated
 - Page 22: "...but in her bouquet...", mispronounce bouquet
- **Flip the sound:**
 - Model this strategy as you come to appropriate words in the story. (love, life, cape, etc.)

Fluency:

- **Read text as the author would say it, conveying the meaning or feeling:**
 - Page 5: When reading, "It will be like having the family in backhome Russia dance around us at night." (*sound dreamy and wishful*)
 - Page 28: *Make your voice sound happy, like you are at a wedding when reading, "At my wedding, men and women danced together."*
 - Page 36: *Make your voice sound sad when you are reading, "When my mother died, prayers were said to lift her soul to heaven."*

Expand Vocabulary:

- **Use pictures, illustrations and diagrams**
 - Page 4: dress and babushka – only items in color on the page
 - Page 11: wedding huppa – you can see the quilt, and it is the only colored item on the page
 - Page 18: "...the cake was a kulich..." - you can see the cake on the quilt
 - Page 32: "superhero capes" - the next page has an illustration of a child wearing the quilt as a cape
- **Tune into interesting words and use new vocabulary in speaking and writing:**
 - Pull out and discuss interesting words in this text such as: nightdress, quilt, scraps, and border. Use various activities to teach these words and encourage their use in speaking and writing. Create a list of words that have the same meaning and could be used interchangeably.

This text can be used with nearly any strategy on the CAFE menu. The above strategies are a highlighted collection to use as a springboard for further instruction.