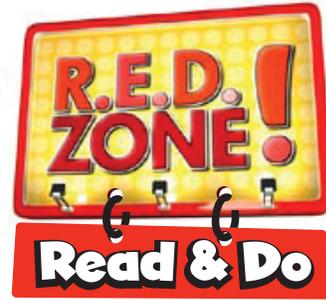


The Keeping Quilt

by Patricia Polacco

A heartwarming story of the author's own family as they pass a beloved quilt, a symbol of their enduring love and faith, along from mother to daughter for almost a century.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How is a quilt different from a blanket?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if the quilt is what these ladies are happy about?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Keeping Quilt*

- hauling: to transport something that is heavy from one place to another
- artificial: made by people rather than occurring naturally
- crowded: people packed together
- Russia: the largest country in the world
- babushka: a headscarf
- apron: a garment worn over the front of clothes to keep them clean
- scraps: a small piece that has been detached from a larger piece
- Sabbath: day of religious worship and rest from work
- challah: white bread traditionally eaten at the Sabbath
- linen: a durable fabric made from the spun fibers of flax
- handkerchief: a cloth for wiping the nose
- engaged: having agreed to get married
- huppa: a canopy
- poverty: the state of being poor
- bouquet: bunch of cut flowers

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why do you think Great-Gramma Anna came to America?
- Do you know anyone who speaks another language besides English?
- The word "babushka" is Russian. Does anyone know a word from another language?
- Does anyone have a quilt at home? What does it look like?
- Who can remember what all the quilt was used for (a tablecloth, a blanket, a huppa)?
- Who can remember why Great-Grandpa Sasha gave Anna a gold coin? A dried flower? A piece of rock salt?
- Why did Anna give bread to Carle?
- Who can remember what ingredients were in the kulich (the cake) that Anna had on her 98th birthday? Do you think you would like kulich?
- Why did Patricia have a sprinkle of wine in her wedding bouquet?
- Do you have anything that once belonged to your parents or grandparents?



Do

Class Keeping Quilt

Create your own "keeping quilt" bulletin board. Have each child bring in something that is typical of them to add to the classroom quilt.