

The Quilt Story

by
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Summary

A pioneer mother stitches a quilt for her daughter. The little girl plays with it and is comforted by it when they move to another place to live. Many years later, another little girl finds the quilt. Her mother patches it. The little girl plays with it and is comforted by it when they move to another house.

Introducing the Story

Read the title of the book on the cover, pointing to each word as you say it. Have children repeat the title as you point to each word.

Point to the picture on the cover. Ask: What is a quilt? Can you find a quilt in the picture? (If necessary, explain that a quilt is a cover for a bed, usually stitched with beautiful designs.)

Reading the Story for the First Time

Read the story, moving your finger under the words as you read.

After reading, ask: Is this story about one little girl or more than one? (It is about one little girl who lived a long time ago, and another little girl who lives in modern times.)

Recalling the Story

After you have finished reading, ask children the recall questions below. Continue to ask these questions when you reread the book, until he or she knows the answers.

Reading the Story Again

Give open-ended prompts on each page. For example, ask: What is happening in this picture? What is the woman doing? Do less reading of the words to the story each time you read, leaving more and more of the "reading" or retelling to the child.

Give prompts about objects or activities in the pictures. Ask what, where, when, why, and how questions. For example, ask: What is the woman sewing on the quilt? (She is sewing a star.) What does Abigail see out her window? (She sees a falling star.) Use your finger to point to what you are asking about. Evaluate the response. Expand it by giving more information. Ask children to repeat the answer. If he or she needs help in answering a question, ask that question again the next time you read the book. Good words to ask about are listed in the vocabulary section.

Extra Activities

Provide drawing materials or paper and paste and have children make paper quilts. Have them make up stories about how a little boy or girl would play with the quilt.

Have children read The Quilt Story to each other.

Recall Questions

- What is the name of this book? (The book is called The Quilt Story.)
- Who is this book about? (It is about a little girl named Abigail who lived a long time ago, and a little girl who lives in the present.)
- What does Abigail's mother make for her? (She makes a quilt.)
- How does Abigail play with the quilt? (She has tea parties on it, wraps herself up in it, and wears it like a dress.)
- How does Abigail feel about moving to the new house? (She feels sad because everything seems new.)
- Who makes Abigail feel better about moving? (Her mother does, by wrapping her in the quilt and rocking her.)
- What happens to the quilt next? (Abigail puts it in the attic, and animals tear it and rip the stuffing out of it.)
- What happens in the rest of the story? (Another little girl finds the quilt and plays with it. It makes her happy when her family moves, just like it made Abigail happy when her family moved.)

Prompts

Use the following questions after the second or third reading of *The Quilt Story*. There are questions for every one or two pages of the story.

- What do you see in this picture? (The girl's mother is sewing a quilt.)
- What does Abigail do with the quilt in these pictures? (She wraps it around her, and she has a tea party with it in the woods.) Have you ever played with a quilt or a blanket in the way Abigail does?
- What is happening in these two pictures? (Abigail pretends the quilt is a dress and she rips it. Her mother sews it up.)
- Where is Abigail? (She is hiding under the quilt.)
- What is happening here? (Abigail's family is moving.)
- Abigail lived a long time ago. How do you know? (The family is moving by wagon, not by car or truck. The mother and father wear old-fashioned clothes.)
- What does Abigail's father build for her? (He builds a bed and a horse.)
- Why does Abigail's mother rock Abigail in the rocking chair? (Abigail doesn't feel at home in the new house, and so her mother wraps the quilt around her and rocks her to make her feel better.)
- Where does Abigail put the quilt? (She puts it in the attic.)
- What hides an apple in the quilt? (A raccoon hides an apple in the quilt.)
- What does the cat do to the quilt? (The cat rolls on it and makes the stuffing come out.)
- What is happening in these pictures? (A different girl finds the quilt in the attic.)
- What does the little girl ask her mother? ("Can you make it like new?")
- What does the mother do? (She sews up the rips and puts new stuffing into it.)
- What is happening in these pictures? (The little girl's family is moving to a new house.)
- What does this family's moving make you think of? (It makes me think of Abigail and her family moving to a new house.)
- The little girl is sad about the new house, just like who? (Abigail)
- She wraps herself in the quilt just like who did? (Abigail)
- Her mother rocks her to make her feel better just like who did? (Abigail's mother)
- Whose name is on the quilt? (Abigail's name is on the quilt.)

Vocabulary

The words listed below come from the story and its pictures. As you page through the book, point to the pictures and ask the child to name the object or the action shown. This will help the child learn new words. You can use the words below, or you can choose words you think will interest your child. Below are words for every one or two pages of the story.

- sewing, candles, needle, thread
- quilt, dolls, falling star, cat, cup, saucer
- stick horse, pigtails, bows
- playing hide-and-seek, sick, sleeping
- covered wagons, hills, shawl, moon, stars
- log house, hatchet, bed, rocking horse, sad
- rocking
- attic, basket, trunk, mother mouse, baby mice, stuffing
- raccoon, tail, claws, cat
- finding
- asking, planting, scarf, patching, stitching
- moving, truck, house, cat carrier
- unpacking, boxes, dishes
- daisy
- hearts, birds, shooting stars