

# 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.