

Teacher's Resource Guide for The Patchwork Quilt

Multicultural Thematic Unit For The Patchwork Quilt Written by Valerie Flourney Unit Developed by Chrisanne McNeil - Madison Schools

Summary...

A young girl listens to her grandmother talk about quilts and becomes very interested in quilting. She wants to help her grandmother make a special patchwork quilt, made up of scraps, cut from the family's favorite old clothing. After her grandmother becomes ill, she is determined to finish the quilt herself.

Reading Level ...

For grades second and third.

Themes...

Family extended families special relationships quilts

Before Reading Questions...

Discuss the patchwork quilts, ask the students if they have ever seen a patchwork quilt? Was the quilt bought in a store or handmade? Was the quilt stitched by hand or a sewing machine?

Purpose...

Show the cover of the book, brainstorm what the story might be about, what are the little girl and woman holding? Do you think they might be related? As a group write some questions you have about the story, that you would like answered, when the book is finished.

Vocabulary...

The Lord's light Finishing touches Masterpiece The old ways Absentmindedly

After Reading Questions...

Look at the questions that were written before the story was read. Were all the questions answered? Discuss the questions that still need to be answered. When Grandma decides to make a quilt does Mama think it is a good idea? How do you know? How long does Grandma say the quilt will take to make? What does Grandma mean when she says she is going to make a masterpiece. What do you think Grandma means when she says the quilt won't forget? When Grandma gets sick does she think she will ever finish the quilt. What does Tonya do about the unfinished quilt? How does the family feel about the quilt when it is finished? How does this story make you feel?

Language Arts ...

Would you like to have a patchwork quilt in your family? What would it look like? What would you want to go on the quilt about you? If you had your very own patchwork quilt what are some events in your life that you would like represented? For emerging writers/readers---Draw your favorite piece of quilt. Write in your journal how this story made you feel.

Social Studies ...

Send home a 9x9 or 12x12 piece of paper with the students. Have each family member create a family square representing his or her family. When the students bring the squares to school punch holes around the outside of the square, and stitch them together with yarn. Hang it up for everyone to enjoy! Re-read the story and record the events as they happen throughout the year. Make a circle and divide it into four sections, like a pie cut into four pieces. Label each section with a season. Fill in the events, as they happen in the story, under the correct season. Discuss what is happening with the weather during the different seasons. Brainstorm the events of the story and list them on chart paper or the board. Have the students categorize the events into the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Math...

Graph the number of people in your family. Count the number of toes in your family.

Art...

Have each student make a personal square of their own that symbolizes their qualities on paper with fabric crayons. Iron the square onto the fabric. Have some mothers come in to help stitch the quilt together to make a class patchwork quilt. Let each student take the quilt home to share their square with their family. At the end of the year, draw one name out of a hat to take the quilt home.

Science...

Background Information ...

About the Author...

Valerie Flournoy has written four children's books. She devotes her time to writing and speaking to groups of children around the country. She graduated from William Smith College. Valerie now lives with her twin sister Vanessa, in her family home, in Palmyra, New Jersey. Jerry Pickney lives with his wife in Croton-on Hudson, New York. He is the only artist to ever have won three Coretta Scott King Awards for illustrations. Books he has illustrated include: Tonya's Reunion, John Henry, both written by Julius Lester, The Sunday Outing, and Back Home by his wife Gloria Pickney, and the Talking eggs by Robert San Souci. Jerry has been honored by the Society of Illustrators with three gold medals and one silver medal.

Suggested Readings ...

Grandmothers - Special Family Relationships Mathis, S. B. (19) Hundred Penny box. New York: Polacco, P. (19). The keeping quilt. New York: Quilts: Hopkinson, D. (199). Sweet Clara and the freedom quilt. Johnston, T. (199). The quilt story. New York: