

**Nine-Patch Quilt Block Pattern**

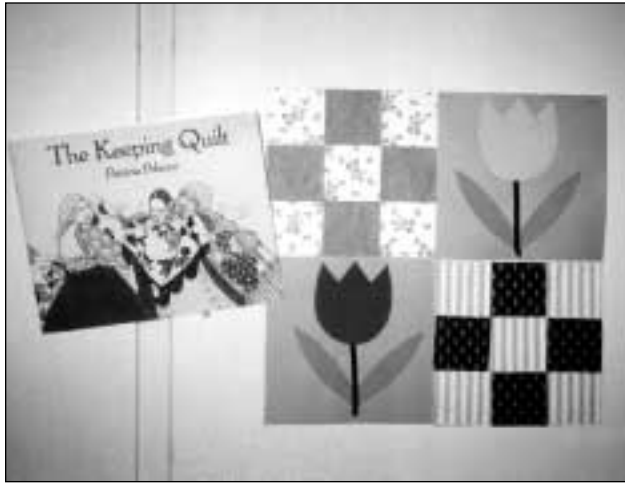
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**LET'S READ (Selection B)**

***The Keeping Quilt***

by Patricia Polacco

(Simon & Schuster, 1994)



**Summary:** When Anna's family moves from Russia to America, her mother makes a quilt out of old clothes to help remember and celebrate their rich heritage. As the quilt passes from generation to generation, it serves as a wedding canopy, a baby blanket, a Sabbath tablecloth, and more.

**Before Reading:** Encourage children to imagine what it must feel like to move to a new place. Explain to them that a new place doesn't have to be a new country, or even a new town. It could be a new classroom or even a new place to sit in class. Ask students: How does it feel to be in a new place?

**After Reading:** Inform students that, like the Keeping Quilt, many quilts are made from scraps of cloth that have special meaning or memories. Invite students to think about what they would like to include in a quilt if they were to make one.

**Writing Prompts:** Ask students to complete one of the following sentences to write in their paper quilt:

- The one piece I would put in my quilt would come from \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- I think quilts can be important to a family because \_\_\_\_\_.

**MAKING THE QUILT**

**You'll need** (for each student):

- ◆ Nine-Patch Quilt Block pattern, page 10
- ◆ Nine 2 1/2-inch wallpaper squares (4 squares of one pattern and 5 squares of a coordinating pattern)
- ◆ Tulip Block pattern, page 14, cut from white paper and colored construction paper (Give each child different-color construction paper, other than light blue.)
- ◆ Two leaves, page 14, cut from green construction paper
- ◆ 3-inch green pipe cleaner
- ◆ 7 1/2-inch square of light-blue construction paper (for background)
- ◆ Glue

**PIECE IT TOGETHER**

1. To make the Nine-Patch Quilt Block, help students choose one wallpaper pattern for the spaces numbered "1," and a second, coordinating pattern for the spaces numbered "2." Have students glue the wallpaper squares onto the quilt block.
2. Give each child both Tulip Block patterns stapled together. Have children write their response to the literature (from Writing Prompts, left) on the white tulip.
3. Have students glue the back of the white tulip near the top of the light-blue background square. Then have them glue the pipe cleaner to the tulip to make a stem. Finally, glue the leaves near the bottom of the stem.
4. Assemble the class quilt. (See page 7 for instructions.)

**Don't Stop Now!**

The quilt that Anna's family creates in *The Keeping Quilt* is an *heirloom*—something valuable handed from one generation to the next. Have students interview their family to find out about any family heirlooms, such as a watch, a toy, or even a blanket. Then invite children to share stories about their heirloom.

**Tulip Block Pattern**

