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The Quilt Story

Tony Johnston and Tomie dePaola

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After a move to a new home, comfort comes from a surprising place. Long ago, a young girl named Abigail put her beloved patchwork quilt in the attic. Generations later, another young girl discovers the quilt and makes it her own, relying on its warmth to help her feel secure in a new home.

In essence, this story is about the constancy of motherly love, even when everything else in the world seems to change. The quilt, crafted by a mother’s loving hands, wraps the child in love both physically and metaphorically. The story follows the quilt from its creation in pioneer days, through to its restoration in modern times. It also follows two girls through the experience of moving, one in a wagon, one in a moving van. We see that ours is not the only generation that has had to cope with changes and transitions, and we see that mothers have always comforted their children by rocking them. Of all the books I read to my daughter, this is the one book that I can’t get through without choking up. At first, I couldn’t figure out why this story seemed to touch me so deeply. In time, I came to see that the importance I attach to this story reflects the importance I attach to rocking my daughter, and my hope that she will see my love as all-encompassing, and permanent.

The Quilt Story is another one of Tomie dePaola’s books. This one is about a little girl named
Abigail whose mother sews her a quilt. The girl loves the quilt, and takes it everywhere. One day, the girl's family moves to a new home, and the quilt comforts her with thoughts of her old home. Then the quilt is packed into the attic, where a raccoon and a family of mice bed in it. A long time later, a girl find the quilt, and her mothers sews it to like new. The girl's family then moves, and once again the quilt is a comfort to a girl in a strange new place. Tomie dePaola does a wonderful job illustrating this book, and it is well written by Tony Johnston.

This was one of my favorite bedtime stories when I was a girl. The story was very comforting. The text is rythmic adding to the plot's emphasis on continuity. The illustrations fit the story well.

Good story. I would have loved to have seen the story expanded. The quilt would not have been in great condition with the neglect it received in storage. I know this because my things were in storage 2 years. Mice do a LOT of damage. I cringed when the little girl wrapped that dirty quilt around her. I bought this book for grandchildren that I don't have.

This story helped my child cope with fears through several of our family's moves. The simple story was soothing, and we love the artwork. My favorite part of the story is how the quilt is passed on in the family to comfort another generation during transitions.

I'm a huge fan of Tommy de Paola's illustrations so chose this for my young granddaughter. She has quilts I've made. It also matters to me that she has a chance to appreciate the story of quilts and quilting. A lovely book fora cozy afternoon in a disposable and synthetic world.

This is a wonderful story to share with children. It tells a history story. It shows how much love and time it takes to make a quilt. It shows how different generations view the importance of a quilt. It just isn't for keeping warm. My day care children loved how much the mother's cared for the children by making or repairing the quilt. My day care children and I made a quilt for our day care room. It is a very important item in the room.

My 4 year old son loved this book so much when we checked it out of the library, that I had to buy one for him. He now asks for his quilt every night and settles in for the night faster. It is a gentle story of love that readers of all ages will enjoy.

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