

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



Coat of Many Colors

Written by Dolly Parton and
illustrated by Brooke
Boynton-Hughes

Preschool edition
December 2018

Overview of Book

Dolly Parton tells her own story about a coat her mother lovingly made her using small rags someone had given them. Dolly wore the coat with pride, even though children teased her at school. This is a story about love and a family's knowledge of how true happiness looks and feels.

Genre: Non-fiction/Biography

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some from *Coat of Many Colors* to introduce in your classroom:

seasons	youth
rags	bitches

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches To Learning
Item B (*Problem solving with materials*)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*)

Physical Development
and Health
Item J (*Fine-motor skills*)

Social Studies
Item FF (*Knowledge of self and others*)
Item HH (*History*)

Reading Tips

Have the children take a long look at the opening full-page illustration. Ask questions like "How many things are going on in this picture?" and "What would you be doing if you were here?"

Ask the children questions about the history: "Look at this picture. What clues do you see that tell us this story took place a long time ago?" (Examples include the old fashioned radio on a shelf, no one is on anything electronic, the teacher is ringing an old-fashioned school bell, no cars.)

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

If possible, bring a guitar or banjo and sing with children at **Greeting Time**.

At **Small Group Time**, use glue and cut paper squares as 'patches' for children make a "quilt" or other design.

Encourage children to make music and dance at **Large Group Time**. Have children choose something to use as a "microphone" like Dolly did in the story. Play Dolly's recording of "Coat of Many Colors" (you can find it on YouTube).

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Place a variety of cut squares of cloth in the **Art Area** for children to use as "rags" to create whatever they want.

Play banjo tunes in the **Music Area** for children who want to hear music at **Work Time**.

Find some old patchwork quilts—and patched up coats—and put them in the **House Area**.

Place *Coat of Many Colors* in the **Book Area** so children can enjoy it when they choose.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Coat of Many Colors*:

How would you feel if kids laughed at your coat?

Where do you think the rags came from? What do you think they might have been?

What would it be like to live during Dolly's time, with no TV?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Coat of Many Colors* with their children. Here's a sample message you can send:

In *Coat of Many Colors*, Dolly Parton reminds us that being rich is not about money or things we own. This is a powerful message we can share by recalling family struggles that worked out for the best, by helping one another, or by graciously accepting gifts from others. As you read the story together, talk with your child about how Dolly's family works and plays together and how Dolly's mom made a coat out of rags "just for her." Share stories with your child about a time when you felt pride or joy in something that was just for you.