

The Rag Coat Guide

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Themes: empathy, self-esteem, poverty, community, generosity

Lesson/Notes: *Sometimes our first reaction is to dislike something that is different. It is helpful to listen to others' perspectives and learn about differences. All people have value. Like the Quilting Mothers, we should help people in need. People need other people.*

Discussion Questions

- *What makes the coat from the Quilting Mothers special? (Their sacrifice, the stories it holds)*
- *How did Minna feel when the other kids made fun of her coat? (angry, sad, embarrassed)*
- *Why do you think Minna went back to the school?*
- *The Quilting Mothers could have used scraps to make a quilt and sell it for money, but instead they made the coat for Minna. What does that say about their characters? (generous, sacrificial love)*
- *Is it okay to make fun of people who are different or poor? (No)*
- *How did the children react when they learned more about the special coat? (listened, understood, apologized)*

Activity: Quality Quilt

Supplies: colors, page 2

- See page 2.
- Children may need help identifying qualities. Here are some starter questions:
 - *How do you feel when there are lots of people around?*
 - *What do you like to do for fun?*
 - *What do you look like?*
 - *How would your friends describe you?*
 - *What do you feel sad about? happy? angry? (identify values)*
 - *What is your favorite color? animal? place?*
 - *What are you good at doing?*
 - *Who is important to you?*
- Bonus: use scrap pieces of construction paper and glue to make the quilt before writing qualities on it.

Quality Quilt

Quilts can be made out of scraps of materials like Minna's rag coat. Decorate each square of the quilt below. Try to use several different colors. On each square, write one of your qualities, or a word that describes you. Are you funny, nice, outgoing, or quiet? Everyone will have different answers because every person is uniquely designed.
