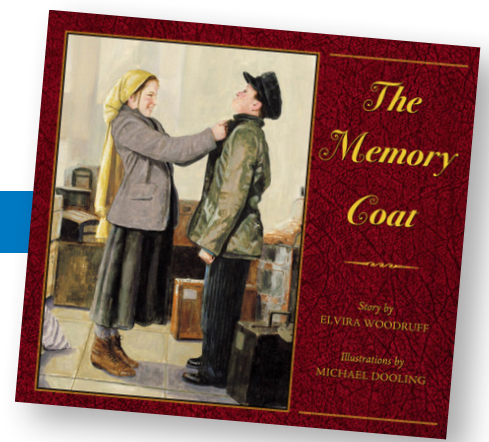


Memory Coat



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Family, Immigration, Resilience

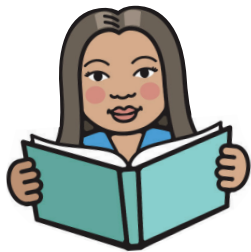
Book Brief: Grisha has been orphaned and lives with his cousin Rachel and her family in Russia. When the family is forced to immigrate to America, Grisha faces rejection at Ellis Island until Rachel has an idea that saves the day.

Author:
Elvira Woodruff

Illustrator:
Michael Dooling

Content Connections:
Social Studies

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Read the title and ask students to think about how the title relates to the illustration. Then, highlight the word “memory” and talk about how items, such as clothing or toys, can hold memories.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk through the book. Ask students to name

things that show that the characters in the book are traveling.

Content Specific Vocabulary: orphan, threadbare, voyage, immigrant

Purpose for Reading: Say to students, “As we read, think about how the author and illustrator use words and pictures to tell the story.”

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING FOR COMPREHENSION

- Why does Grisha live with his cousin and her family?
- How does Grisha feel about his threadbare coat that isn't very warm?
- Why does Rachel and Grisha's family leave Russia for America?
- Where is Ellis Island and why do the family land there?
- What are the inspectors looking for when they examine travelers?
- How does Rachel solve the problem about the mark on Grisha's coat?
- Why doesn't everyone realize that Grisha's coat is on inside out?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How did the author and illustrator use words and pictures to show how Grisha and Rachel's relationship was special?

Extending Our Thinking: Creative problem solving can have a small impact, like solving ordinary boredom, or a big impact, like allowing passage through Ellis Island. Present a tricky scenario to

students and ask them to come up with three solutions (even if they seem silly or impossible).

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- Vocabulary Scaffolding sheet also available.