

Memory Coat

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

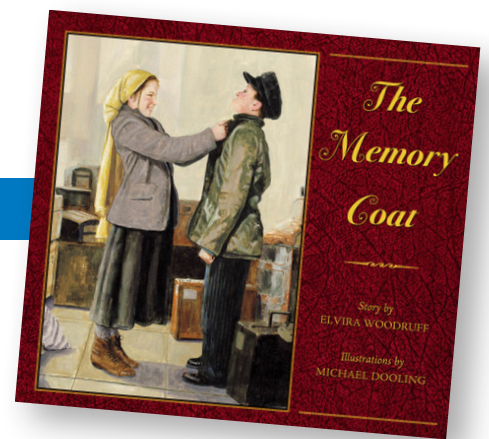
Themes: Family, Immigration, Resilience

Grade Level: Pre-Kindergarten to 3rd grade

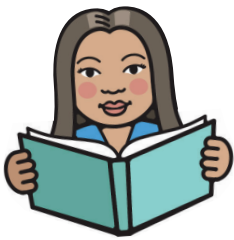
Book Brief: Grisha has been orphaned and lives with his cousin Rachel and her family in Russia. When the family is forced to immigrate to America, Grisha faces rejection at Ellis Island until Rachel has an idea that saves the day.

Author:
Elvira Woodruff

Illustrator:
Michael Dooling



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Talk to your child about the many ways people arrive in this country and explain immigration: moving to another country permanently.

While reading, make connections: Ask your child to identify the points in the book where a problem needs to be solved.

After reading, ask questions:

- Why did Grisha go to live with his cousin Rachel's family?
- Why did the family have to leave Russia?
- What happened that caused Grisha to have trouble passing the inspection at Ellis Island?
- How did Rachel help Grisha get through the inspection area, even though his coat had been marked for rejection?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

COOPERATIVE STORYTELLING

Materials: Paper, crayons/markers/colored pencils

Rachel and Grisha spend time engaged in cooperative storytelling, where Rachel tells a story and Grisha illustrates it while she talks. Practice this type of storytelling with your child. Make up a story as you go and have your child create illustrations to match your details. Keep the telling and the drawing loose and fun.



FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

If you have family heirlooms or items that family members made for you, take them out and share the stories behind them with your child. Then, create a new family heirloom with your child. Some ideas include a tie-dye t-shirt that you create together, a photograph that you frame, or a special piece of clothing or jewelry that you decide to pass down to your child now.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT HOME:

- [Fiona's Lace \(2014\)](#)
- [Sugar in Milk \(2020\)](#)
- [Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma \(2021\)](#)