



# The Little Tailor Girl

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Perseverance, Creativity

**Book Brief:** Gabrielle is raised in an orphanage, but she will sew her way to fame and fortune!

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Francesca Vitolo

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, “Have you ever made or designed something with your own hands? How did it feel to create it?” Explain to students that this story is about real events, but it is told like a story with characters, a setting, and events in order.

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read, pay attention to the steps Gabrielle takes on her journey from the orphanage to becoming a famous designer. Think about how each part of her story connects to the next.”



**Think Aloud:** “First, Gabrielle learns to sew at the orphanage, then she practices and improves her skills, and eventually she uses those skills to create her own designs and become famous. Each step connects; her early practice gave her the skills she needed to design beautiful clothes later.”

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- What is Gabrielle's life like at the orphanage?
- How does Gabrielle learn to sew?
- What does Gabrielle do with her sewing skills as she grows up?
- How does each step in Gabrielle's life help her reach success?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** “What were the important steps in Gabrielle's journey from the orphanage to becoming a famous designer? How did each event in her life connect to help her succeed?”

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, “What is a skill you have or want to learn? How could practicing it help you get better?” Encourage students to design their own simple fashion item (like a hat, shirt, bag, or shoes) using paper, fabric scraps, markers, and other craft materials. Students can sketch their design first, then create a paper or fabric version to wear or display, explaining what inspired their creation and what “designer choices” they made.

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- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.