

Title: *My Grandfather's Coat*
Author: Retold by Jim Aylesworth
Illustrator: Barbara McClintock

Illinois Read Book 2016: Grades K – 2
AR BL 4.1, AR pts 0.5
Lexile: AD910L

This story is based upon the Yiddish folksong “I Had a Little Overcoat”. This story is told from the perspective of a grandchild. The beginning picture is of a young man who has just come to America standing near the Statue of Liberty. He becomes a tailor, falls in love, and sews his own long coat to wear at his wedding. Pictures show his love for his family as the story progresses. As the first child is born, the coat is frayed and worn out. He uses the material that is still good and sews a “smart jacket”. As the baby girl is growing up, the smart jacket begins to show wear and tear. Once again, grandfather uses the material to make something new. This time he sews a vest. As the daughter goes through her teen years, the vest starts to show its wear. Grandfather sews the good material into a tie just in time for the daughter to get married. The tie is worn at many family events and as he becomes a great grandfather the tie begins to show its wear. Grandfather once again recycles the material and makes it into a toy for his great grandchild and his kittens. As the toy begins to wear out and is left on the floor, a mouse takes the material to build a nest.

This story is excellent to begin a discussion on recycling or repurposing items. It also shows the importance of family. Through the illustrations, you see that this is a story about a Jewish family. The grandfather is a tailor who is also a farmer.

This book also uses a lot of repetition.

Vocabulary: tailor, frayed, tattered, moldered

Classroom Connections and information about the author can be found at: <http://www.ayles.com/mygrandfathers2.html>