



Half a Blanket

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Respect, Kindness, Compassion

Book Brief: A touching Irish folktale about an elderly father, his son, and a child's wisdom that teaches an important lesson about how we treat those we love!

Author:
Storytime

Illustrator:
Rosaria Battiloro

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, "How should we treat elderly people in our families? Why is it important to take care of them?" (Optional: Think, Pair, Share)

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

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about the main idea or message of this story. What does the grandmother learn about beauty and perfection?"



Think Aloud: "The father thinks his elderly dad isn't useful anymore, so he wants him to leave. But when the grandson points out that he might be treated the same way someday, the father realizes something important. His son shows him how his actions today affect his future."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why does the father want his elderly dad to leave?
- What does the father plan to do with Caitlin's blanket?
- How does Caitlin feel about cutting up the blanket?
- What does the grandson say that changes everything?
- Why does the grandson's comment upset his father?
- What does the father decide to do at the end?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What is the central message or lesson of this story? What did the father learn from his son's words?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "How should we treat grandparents and elderly people? What can we learn from them?" Connect the story to appreciating elders. Have students think about elderly people in their lives and what they can learn from them or ways to show respect.

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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.