



Mooshka: A Quilt Story

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Karla loves Mooshka, a quilt composed of scraps of fabric from many members of Karlas family. But Mooshka is more than a quilt it can talk, comforting Karla at bedtime. Each square or schnitz, tells her stories of her ancestors and their lives. When new baby sister Hannah arrives, Karlas routine is upset and Mooshka falls silent. Only when Karla shares Mooshka with her sister does the quilt begin to speak again and tell Hannah stories of Karlas early life.

Mooshka: A Quilt Story Details

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From Reader Review Mooshka: A Quilt Story for online ebook

Kelly says

Karla loves her quilt, Mooshka, which talks to her of parts of itself. Bad description, but worth the read.

Read Ribbet says

Mooshka celebrates quilting as both an art and as way to capture stories. The blanket is compose of pieces that each tell a story. The illustrations reflect a quilt like design. It could be a great catalyst with a similar prop for telling stories that could be written stories. It could have many potential uses in a classroom and would be a nice addition to a classroom collection.

Alexis Fillmore says

great illustrations

Sheila says

Karla's grandmother made the quilt from scraps of old fabric that she called schnitz. As she sewed the pieces together, she told Karla stories. The quilt that Karla named Mooshka then told her stories. The yellow fabric was from the kitchen table cloth, the red from a cape... Julie Paschkis has illustrated the book with quilt fabrics bordering the pictures and quilt patterns sashing the text -- also telling part of the story.

Ana says

I have admired and read children books for a long time. There are loads of good books out there with fascinating color and story. Since it for children, the story itself is so simple yet the children can absorb its moral story.

This book is about Karla whose quilt could talk and tell you bedtime stories. This special quilt whose name Mooshka is made by Karla's grandmother. Each color of the quilt has its own stories. These stories kept Karla calm and sleepy at night.

Through Mooshka's stories, Karla know that the yellow schintz was ever being made to a tent by his grandmother, where she could told fortune beneath its golden folds. From the red schintz, Karla know that her mother ever use it as a cape and jumped out of the cherry tree as if she was a superwoman.

I like the illustration throughout this book. It is really colorfull and beautiful. Each schintz has different pattern.

Patricia Kemp Blackmon says

Karla has a quilt she calls Mooshka. She is very attached to Mooshka. Mooshka is more like a friend to her. It tells her stories and comforts her. The stories consist of the memories from each patch of fabric telling a story of its' own.

I don't want to reveal too much about Mooshka for fear of spoiling the story. But I will say things begin to change once Karla gets a new baby sister. For some reason Mooshka will not talk to Karla since her baby sister arrived.

This is a darling story about family history, old memories, growing up, love and sharing.

The illustrations are beyond amazing and will definitely stimulate any child's imagination.

More than likely when children hear or read this story they will want a quilt like Mooshka. Hey, I even want one.

I most definitely recommend this book.

I rated this book a 5+ out of 5.

Disclosure:

I received a free copy of this book from Peachtree Publishers for review. I was in no way compensated for this review it is my own opinion.

Paul Hankins says

I remembered Julie Paschkis's beautiful illustrations in *PABLO NERUDA: POET OF THE PEOPLE*. In *MOOSHKA, A QUILT STORY*, Julie writes and illustrates to create a nice look at capturing memories by rendering them into a family heirloom.

Karla's unusual quilt, which she calls her Mooska, tells her stories as found in its colors and patterns (as a result of her grandmother telling these stories while creating the quilt).

When a baby sister moves into Karla's room, the Mooshka stops sharing its stories until Karla wraps herself and Hannah in the Mooska and Karla begins to share about the pieces that were made from her pajamas when she was small like her new sister (a wonderful look at how young children can be keepers of the story as part of an extended family).

Pair this one up with *Peaceful Peaces* (a collection of quilt-themed poems) or give as a gift along with a handmade quilt. Paschkis captures a lovely voice in a grandmother who shares stories out the pieces of the quilt and how they create a weaving of family stories. The pages are bright and colorful with quilt-like

patterns framing the quaint illustrations.

Ed says

I cannot say enough about this book. It is the first picture book I have ever read that made me cry tears of joy. The book was magical and touching in so many ways. I think the reason this book affected me so much was that my Mother quilts, and I constantly see reminders of family member's clothing/curtains/blanket (as well as some of my own from childhood) in my Mom's quilts. The book is absolutely beautiful, with fantastic endpapers, and vibrant, colorful drawings on every page. In addition, the story is great, and very, very touching.

I know that the Caldecott committee doesn't base their decision on past work, but it is time someone started realizing what a great artist Julie Paschkis is. I am a huge fan of *Where Is Catkin?*, *Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian*, and *Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People*. These are all fantastic books that were overlooked by past committees, and really haven't received the Caldecott buzz they deserve. I think it is time that this wonderful artist gets recognized for some fantastic picture books.

Miriam Rainwater says

Rating: 3 Stars

At bedtime, Mooshka always said, "Sweet dreams." First thing in the morning, Mooshka might say, "Pancakes."

This is a story of a talking quilt, made by the main character's grandmother to tell the stories of the generations. Quite a cute idea, I might add. However, I'm sad to say that the storyline simply does not live up to the uniqueness of that idea.

I received *Mooshka: A Quilt Story* from NetGalley for review. The story's illustrations are made from pieces of quilt fabric and are bright, textured, and cheerful. They would capture any child easily from beginning to end. On the contrary, the narrative starts out well but doesn't carry through.

Mooshka is the name of the quilt, and it is somehow magical because it tells stories that help Karla go to sleep each night. All she has to do is touch a piece of fabric, and Mooshka will tell her the story. Readers enjoy short stories of Karla's grandfather's proposal and her mother's escapades of jumping out of the cherry tree to learn how to fly. We also reads stories about the dog's Halloween costume and Karla's aunt's fortune telling.

Then one day when Hannah, Karla's little baby sister moves into Karla's room, the quilt mysteriously stops talking. Karla feels a bit jealous of her little sister, but one night when the baby is crying, she goes over to her sister's crib tell her stories from the quilt. This is where I took issue with the plot of the book. I understand the thought of wanting Karla to tell the stories to her younger sister, but I was disappointed that Mooshka didn't start telling stories again. I dare say children will be dissatisfied with this conclusion, also. In addition, there is no explanation of why Mooshka stops talking. Is it because Mooshka doesn't like the new baby? Is it because Karla was jealous? There is no resolution.

Despite its closing pages, however, *Mooshka: A Quilt Story* has a strong Russian flavor and captures the joy of giving to the next generation (or at least, in Karla's case, her little sister).

What items do you have in your house that tell a story of past generations?

Review to be posted at The Twenty-Six Letter Imagination blog on Wednesday, January 25th, 2012;
www.26letterimagination.blogspot.com)

Lindsay Surmeier says

When reading this book, I made a text to text connection. A text to text connection is when you relate one book to something else you have read in another book, journal, article, magazine, etc. As long as you have read that piece of information, you can make a text to text connection. My text to text connection happened on page 6. On page 6, the grandmother uses the word "schnitz". The use of another language mixed in with English words or phrases reminds me of another book I have read that also did that. "Picture Perfect" by Jodi Picoult used French Cajun words and phrases. While the meaning was never told outright of these phrases most of the time, like in "Mooshka", the reader gets a general idea from the English context.

Samantha Van says

Title: *Mooshka: A Quilt Story*
Author and Illustrator: Julie Paschkis

Artistic Media: Colored Pencil

Brief Summary: This story is about a little girl who owns a quilt that tells her old stories about her family. When her little sister is born and moves into her room she no longer hears stories. Until one night she puts her blanket in her sister's crib and starts telling her sister the stories about their family.

Artistic Critique

Illustration Framing: Paschkis put frames around each of her illustrations. The frames capture your attention and bring your eyes to the illustration.

Color: The colors used in the book are great for capturing young children's attention.

Lines: There are many lines and patterns used in this book. The quilt is full of different patterns to illustrate each story.

This book would be great for read aloud and to have your library. It could also be used as an art lesson. Have the children create a frame and draw a picture of your favorite thing inside of the frame.

Dolly says

This is a sentimental story, one that really emphasizes the importance of passing down family stories and history to a younger generation. The narrative isn't too long and the illustrations are bold and bright. Our

girls loved the different patterns and colors of the schnitz and the shape of the little girl draped in the quilt reminded me of a matryoshka doll.

Overall, it's a nice tale and is certainly good for bedtime reading. We enjoyed reading this book together.

Barbara says

What a lovely tribute to storytelling and the bonds that exist within families! Karla loves the quilt her grandmother has made for her so much that she names it Mooshka. Each quilt piece (called a schnitz) has a different story and different voice, and Karla takes comfort from those familiar stories of love and adventure and important events in her families' lives. Although she isn't too happy when a new baby arrives, Karla decides to use her beloved quilt and its stories to calm her sister. I liked how the object that she cherishes ends up being the very object she shares with her sister. The India ink and gouache illustrations featuring various quilt patterns in different sizes and shapes surround the text with brightly-hued images. The illustration that depicts Karla lying in bed, one hand touching a schnitz evokes a feeling of warmth, safety, and comfort that comes from knowing that she is loved.

Jack says

Mooshka by Julie Paschkis (Whom also illustrated) is a wonderful, sweet story. Featuring the titular blanket as generational soothsayer, *Mooshka* takes the reader on a multigenerational journey. The protagonist, Karla is a young girl whom leans on her patchwork quilt to sooth her through nights both cold and fraught, seasons warm and cold. Along the way you, the reader, learn of the quilt's many stories, embedded into the work by Karla's grandmother.

The art in *Mooshka* is spectacular. Each setting and character are drawn to feel like part of a quilt, so the whole story unfolds like a pictographic tapestry within a larger blanket. The colors are vibrant and patterns engaging.

The plot is sentimental but grounded in passage of generations, as the quilt originates, tells its stories to Karla, and she in turn receives the opportunity to pay it forward later. It's a wonderful tale to share with your child. It'll definitely be featured in our family's nighttime reading ritual again.

Sue Morris says

Karla's beloved quilt, named Mooshka, is unlike any other quilt, and not only because the material and design are unique. Mooshka has the ability to talk and tells Karla stories on the nights Karla cannot sleep. All Karla needs to do is place a hand on a patch, or schnitz, and the quilt becomes a storyteller. Karla's grandmother handpicked each schnitz and told Karla the story behind each as she lovingly pieced Mooshka together. These are the stories that Mooshka recites to Karla late at night.

One day, Karla's baby sister Hannah moves into Karla's bedroom. Karla does not seem happy sharing her room, voicing this to Mooshka when the quilt refuses to retell a schnitz story. Mooshka no longer says sweet dreams. One night Hannah, like all babies, begins a crying jag that Karla cannot help but hear. Karla takes

Mooshka to the crib hoping the quilt will comfort her baby sister.

I initially read this on a Kindle, which I do not recommend. Many of the illustrations did not display properly and some of the text was out-of-order. The actual print book is excellent. The story is a new way to bring two sisters together when one is not too happy about the other intruding her space. I love this story. Having shared a bedroom with two older sisters, I know how space can be a precious commodity.

The illustrations, also by the author, are bright and cheery. The two girls, Karla and Hannah are adorable. Each page is bright and cheerful, just like Mooshka and her many colors and patterns. The reason for Mooshka becoming silent is a little muddy. Is it because she can only recite stories to Karla or, because it seems, Karla does not want to share her bedroom with Hannah? In any case, a silent Mooshka allows Karla time to consider her sister's needs.

Mooshka is a quilt made of memories with a little magic thrown in. Karla's grandmother calls each piece a schnitz. A schnitz is a slice or a cut. The schnitz in Mooshka are slices of family history kept alive by passing down the story of each fabric to Karla and then to Hannah. Being equally curious about the name Mooshka, I looked it up in the Urban Dictionary. Mooshka has two definitions, both of which apply to this story. The first definition states mooshka is a term of endearment. The second definition is a small being that is both sweet and adorable. Mooshka seems to be a term a grandmother would call Karla, not the quilt, but it works well for the story.

Mooshka, A Quilt Story is a wonderful bedtime read that will interest young children, especially little girls. However, be careful. If your child reads this story and owns a quilt, your little mooshka will want to know the story of each and every schnitz before agreeing to lights out.

Note: book received courtesy of the publisher, Peachtree Publishers.
originally posted at: <http://kid-lit-reviews.com/2012/02/28...>
