Featured book and Jewish values

My Grandfather’s Coat
by Jim Aylesworth
Illustrated by Barbara McClintock
Published by Scholastic Press

A young man travels by boat to America, where he becomes an industrious tailor. The young tailor makes himself a handsome coat for his wedding. As the tailor ages, and becomes a father, grandfather, and great grandfather, he continually refashions the fraying coat. As the coat changes from a vest, to a tie, to a toy for a baby, we witness many poignant moments in the tailor’s life.

Values

From generation to generation - Le-dor va-dor - the passing of traditions, values, objects, songs, and stories from one generation to the next

Preventing waste - Bal tash-chit - preserving the world’s resources through recycling and caring for the environment

What we did in class

What to talk about at home

- Why did the grandfather keep making the tattered coat into something else? Why didn’t he just throw the coat away?
- Which of our family’s possessions or traditions would you like to pass down to your children and your children’s children? Why?

What else you can do

- Search the house for an item of clothing that originally belonged to someone else. Discover how the item first came to your house and what history it carries.
- Choose a room in your house. Set a timer for five minutes and see how many items you can find that can be recycled, repurposed, or donated.

More PJ library books about journeying to a new country, protecting the environment, and passing along tradition

The Always Prayer Shawl by Sheldon Oberman
The Blessing Cup by Patricia Polacco
Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg
Solomon and the Trees by Matt Biers Ariel

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