



JOSEPH HAD A LITTLE OVERCOAT

AUTHOR: SIMMS TABACK

ILLUSTRATOR: SIMMS TABACK

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Joseph had a Little Overcoat](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Joseph had a little overcoat, but it was full of holes—just like this book! When Joseph's coat got too old and shabby, he made it into a jacket. But what did he make it into after that? And after that? As you turn the pages of this book, you can use the die-cut holes to guess what Joseph will be making next from his amazing overcoat, while learning that you can always make something, even out of nothing. (amazon.com)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Simms Taback was born in New York City in 1932. He grew up in the Bronx, and graduated from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art. Simms' books have won many awards, including the prestigious Caldecott Medal for *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. Simms and his wife lived and worked in Ventura, California. When Simms was not busy working on children's books, he could often be found enjoying long walks along the beaches of Ventura with his dog Buddy, out and about exploring new and interesting variations of all things chocolate, and with his wife, staying current with most every new motion picture.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What do you notice about this cover about Joseph's overcoat? What is an overcoat?
- Some of the pages have animals on them. Let's look carefully as we read to find them.
- (front endpapers) What things can you identify on the front endpapers?

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 1-2) Where does Joseph live?
- (p. 3-4) reader: Show the die cut and how the overcoat turns into a jacket
- (p. 8) What does nephew mean?
- (p. 15-16) What do you notice about all the men in this illustration? (all wearing hats)

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TOPICS & THEMES:

- Folktales
- Book construction
- Problem-solving
- Recycling

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- (p. 20-21) I wonder what all the people are looking at from their windows. What do you think?
- (p. 26) What is a handkerchief?
- (p. 28) What are suspenders?
- (end of book) reader: Read the letter from the author. Show the music. Explain how music is like another language. Once you know how to read it, you can sing a melody (like reading a sentence).

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Was this fiction or non-fiction? Why do you think that?
- What's happening to the size of each thing that Joseph made?
- Have you ever read a book with holes in it before? What do you think of this one?
- I wonder if what Joseph is doing can be considered recycling. What do you think?
- I find something new in the illustrations every time I read this book. It makes me want to read it again and again!

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Have you ever used a handkerchief when your nose is runny? What else can you use?
- Would you consider making something new from something old? What kinds of things would you do?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Have students repeat with some of the repeating phrases as you read (e.g. "It got old and worn.")

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- There are so many details in this book's illustrations that aren't in the words. Let's see if we can find a few.
- What do you notice about the illustrations? Colors, images, etc.
- What if the hole in the page were placed elsewhere on the page? What would show through? How did the illustrator know where to cut the hole?
- What if Joseph had started with a blanket? Do you think he would have made different things?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Hand out images from magazines, along with a piece of construction paper. Have students cut a hole in the paper, any shape, and put it over the image. Have them compare views by moving the hole over the image to see how different parts of the image show

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Make a list, in order, of all the things Joseph made from his coat.
- Write the words that were new to you in this story.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Create a page of the book using die cut technique.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.7, K.10

Joseph had a little overcoat, but it was full of holes”just like this book! When Joseph's coat got too old and shabby. When Joseph's favorite overcoat gets old and worn, he makes a jacket out of it. When the jacket is more patches than jacket, Joseph turns it into a vest. When the vest's number is up, Joseph makes a scarf. This thrifty industry continues until there's nothing left of the original garment. But clever Joseph manages to make something out of nothing! (And that's the foreshadowed moral of the story.) In today's throwaway world, Joseph's old-fashioned frugality is a welcome change. Based on a Yiddish song from Simms Taback's youth (lyrics and music reproduced on t “Joseph Had a Little Overcoat” is a Caldecott Medal award-winning book by Simms Taback and it is about how a man named Joseph had an old overcoat and decided to make it into something new. “Joseph Had a Little Overcoat” is definitely a children’s™. After reading Simms Taback’s™s version of “There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly,” I thought that there would never be another die-cut formatted folk song book, but I have just recently read another folk song book called “Joseph Had a Little Overcoat.” “Joseph had a little overcoat. It was old and worn. So he made a jacket out of it and went to the fair. The picturebook Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Taback uses a creative approach to capture the reader's attention. By observing the book the reader can anticipate that Joseph has an old overcoat. This is obvious because the picture on the front cover shows Joseph wearing an overcoat that has holes in it. The age group for this book would be kindergarten to second grade. The book starts with Joseph, the main character, who has an overcoat that he really likes. Soon the overcoat becomes old and worn, but instead of throwing the coat away, he makes it into a jacket. The jacket becomes

Joseph had a little overcoat. Collection by Jantine Weggemans knots_inc on Instagram. 7. Simms Taback's Caldecott Medal-winning childrens book, Joseph Had A Little Overcoat, is animated in this excerpt from the video based on the book. DVD produc Jantine Weggemans knots_inc on Instagram. Joseph had a little overcoat. What others are saying. Simms Taback's Joseph Had A Little Overcoat. See more. Joseph Had a Little Overcoat Storytelling Kit at Lakeshore Learning. Lakeshore Learning Problem Solving Skills Creative Curriculum Preschools Classroom Activities School Supplies Popsicle Sticks Storytelling Childrens Books. Create more storytime fun with a kid-pleasing kit pac