



Title: Joseph Had a Little Overcoat

Author/ Illustrator: Simms Taback

Age Range: 4-7

Topics/Themes: Eastern European Folklore, Jewish culture, coats, recycled clothing

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

I. COMPONENTS OF BOOK (REVIEW EACH SESSION)

- Author, Illustrator (roles of each)
- Title; front and back covers; spine
- Explain to students that this book won an award. See below:



The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

II. INTRODUCTION (PREP QUESTIONS)

- Model a think-aloud strategy with the students:
 - What is an overcoat? What do you notice about Joseph's Overcoat? (pull cover away to see the holes in his coat?)
 - Can you predict what this story is about? What makes you say that?
 - What do you think the setting of the story is?

III. INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES

- During Reading:**
 - Have students repeat the phrase: "It got old and worn." Have them say it aloud with you each time it comes up in the book.
 - After reading the vest page: What do you predict Joseph will do with the vest?
 - After button page: What will he do now? Why do you think that?
- Post Reading:**
 - Conduct a picture walk with the students, recalling what happened in the story.
 - How did Joseph make the new clothing each time?
 - Can you think of other things Joseph could have made?
 - What do you think was the author's message to the reader? What did he want us to think about?
 - What is Joseph doing with his overcoat each time? Reusing and Recycling
 - What was the lesson or moral of the story?
 - What piece of clothing at home do you have that you could make into something new?