



The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story

Written by Aya Khalil Illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan

The Arabic Quilt is the true story of Kanzi, an Egyptian-American who starts school unsure how to navigate the world. With support, she comes to find a classroom where everyone is welcome.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what that girl is drawing?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- Habibti – My love
- Teita - grandma
- shukran – thank you
- internment camp - putting a person in an area for containment based on race, religion or other reasons
- Bahebek – I love you (feminine)
- Bahebak – I love you (masculine)
- Mama – Mom
- Baba – Dad
- Shurbet ‘ads – Lentil soup
- Kofta – Spiced meatball

- After:**
- What does Kanzi pack in her backpack for her first day of school?
 - What did Kanzi’s mom pack for her lunch? What did Kanzi wish she her mom would pack her for lunch?
 - Why do you think Kanzi’s lunch is so important to her?
 - What are the three facts Kanzi shares with her class about herself?
 - Before bedtime, Kanzi writes a poem and wraps herself in her quilt. What does the quilt smell like? What does it remind her of?
 - Why does her classmate Molly apologize? How does that make Kanzi feel? How does she Kanzi?
 - What was Kanzi’s poem about?
 - What does Kanzi bring to school to share with her class?
 - How does Kanzi’s mom help with the class project?
 - What does Mrs.Haugen teach her class about learning new languages?
 - How does the class project turn out?
 - Describe the poem Kanzi wrote for her parents.



Word Search

THE ARABIC QUILT

B	I	A	Q	P	Z	Q	D	P	F
I	E	M	A	I	L	U	L	N	R
L	G	E	M	N	V	I	A	W	I
I	Y	R	V	I	X	L	N	V	E
N	P	I	G	H	G	T	G	V	N
G	T	C	E	J	Q	R	U	K	D
U	I	A	K	B	D	Q	A	A	L
A	A	N	P	O	E	M	G	N	Y
L	N	X	K	E	Q	J	E	Z	T
A	R	A	B	I	C	J	S	I	M

Word List

IMMIGRANT BILINGUAL AMERICAN ARABIC KANZI
 LANGUAGES EGYPTIAN FRIENDLY QUILT POEM