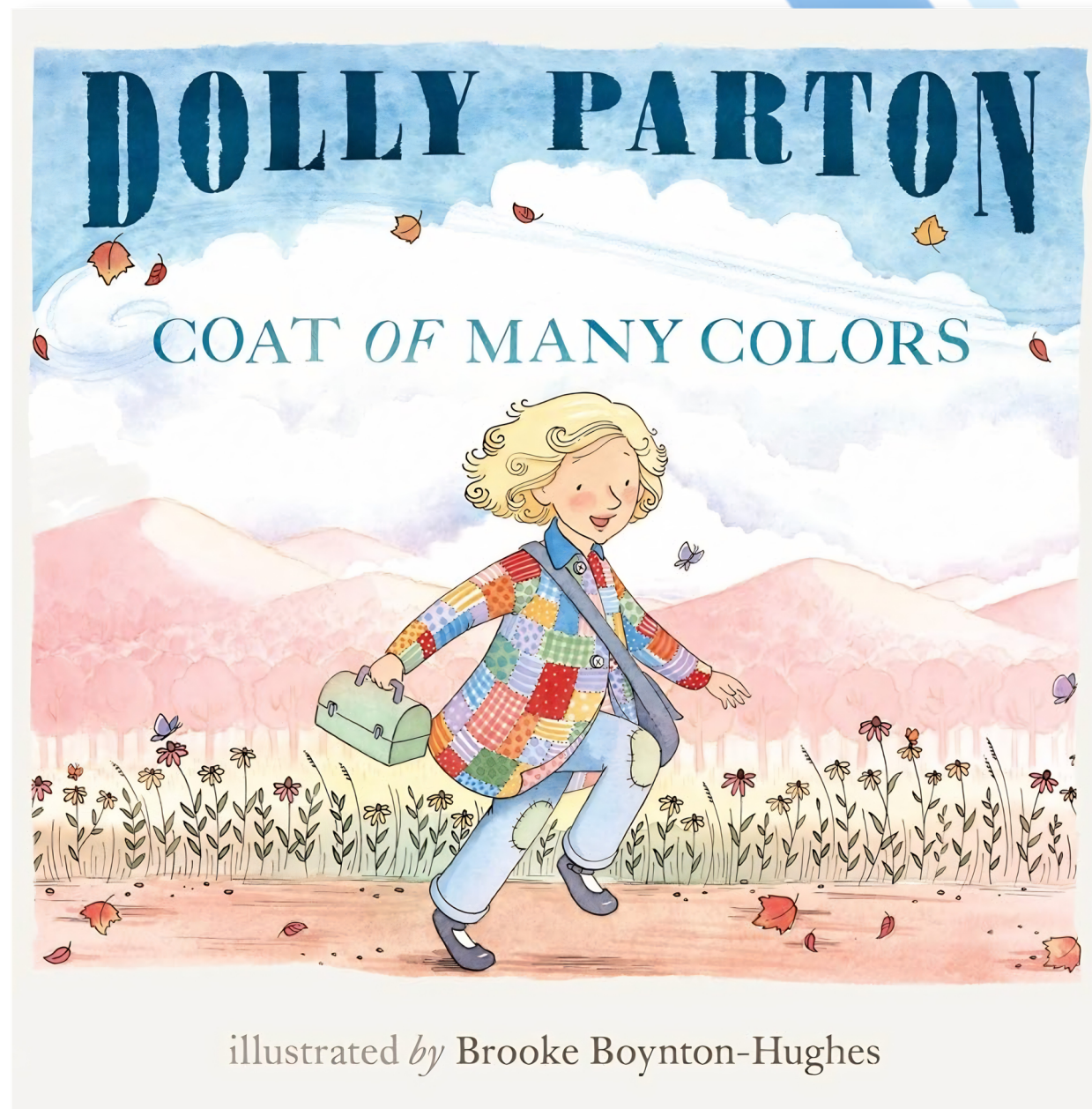


FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

BOOK BRIDGES



Coat of Many Colors

Author: Dolly Parton

Illustrator: Brooke Boynton-Hughes

Activities Created by
Washburn University Education Major:
Katy Menke



Summary of A Coat of Many Colors

A young Dolly Parton is the main character of this story. At the beginning of the book, Dolly looks back at her childhood and thinks about a coat of many colors made by her mama out of a box of rags. The coat was loved dearly by Dolly because she knew that her mom put a lot of work into it. She was so proud of her colorful coat until she wore it to school one day...read more to find out what happens when Dolly wears her coats of many colors to school.

Read Alouds



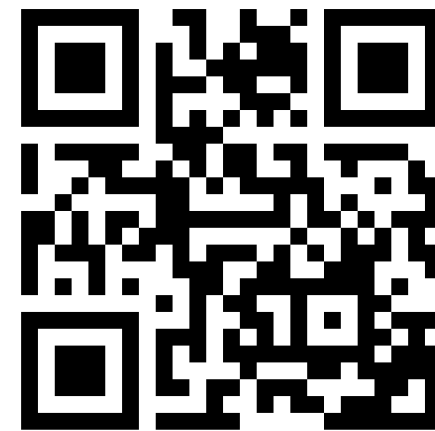
[English Youtube](#)
[Read-Aloud](#)

About the Author and Illustrator

Dolly Parton is the author of Coat of Many Colors. She is an American singer and songwriter, producing 50+ studio albums throughout her career. Dolly wrote Coat of Many Colors to go with one of her favorite songs, also called Coat of Many Colors. This book was written to spread awareness about bullying in schools and remind kids that it's okay to be different.

The illustrator of Coat of Many Colors is Brooke Boynton-Hughes. Brooke has illustrated 13 children's books throughout her career.

Learn More



[Dolly Parton](#)



[Brooke Boynton-Hughes](#)

Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, notice feelings, and connect the story to their own lives.



Before Reading

- When you look at the front of the book, how do you think the main character feels about her colorful coat? How can you tell?
- Based on the title and the front picture, what do you think this story will be about?



During Reading

- Why did Dolly love the coat of many colors that her mama made for her? Explain.
- On one of the pages, the book says, "Although I had no money, I was as rich as I could be." What does the author mean by that? Explain why you think that.



After Reading

- Why do you think that the other kids made fun of Dolly's colorful coat?
- How do you think it made Dolly feel to be made fun of?
- How do you think the kids who bullied Dolly Parton would feel if they saw this book?

Extending the Book with Additional Reading

Books about empathy and self-love pair well with *Coat of Many Colors* because the story explores bullying, acceptance, and believing in yourself.



[I Am Human: A Book of Empathy Read Aloud](#)

Read About Empathy

I Am Human: A Book of Empathy by Susan Verde is a good companion text. It uses simple language to help children talk about kindness, feelings, and empathy.



[Dolly Parton Website](#)

Learn More About Dolly

Families can also learn more about Dolly Parton's life and career. A couple of book options are *My Little Golden Book About Dolly Parton* by Deborah Hopkinson and *Who Is Dolly Parton?* by True Kelley. If these books are not available, Dolly Parton's website shares information about her life and work.



Talk About These Questions

- How can someone succeed as much as Dolly did when her family did not have much money?
- What helped Dolly keep dreaming and believing in herself?
- How can kindness help someone feel accepted?

Extending the Book with Writing

Because the story focuses on acceptance and self-love, writing affirmations is a great way to practice writing while reminding children of their worth.

Materials: blank paper, pencil, and tape if you want to display the finished affirmation.



Step 1: Say an affirmation to your child and have them repeat it.



Step 2: Have your child write the affirmation on a piece of paper.



Step 3: Decorate the paper with colors or patterns.



Step 4: Tape it somewhere your child will see every day.

Affirmation Ideas

- ♥ I am kind.
- ♥ I am important.
- ♥ I am loved.
- ♥ I am brave.
- ♥ I am strong.
- ♥ I am worthy.

Extending the Book with Math

This story offers many chances to practice counting and number skills by noticing objects in the illustrations.

- 1 Choose an object in the picture.
- 2 Point to each object as you count.
- 3 Say or write the number.
- 4 Try again with a different object.

Try Counting

- How many photographs are in the scrapbook?
- How many chickens do you see by the house?
- How many leaves blow along the window?
- How many flowers are in the vase?
- How many pumpkins do you see on this page?
- How many children are circled around Dolly?

Extending the Book with Science

One great way to connect this book to science is by talking about the seasons. This story appears to be set during fall, and families can look for clues in the illustrations that show how seasons change.



Look for Fall Clues

1

Leaves



Look for leaves changing color or falling from the trees.

2

Pumpkins



Notice pumpkins and other signs of the harvest season.

3

Clothing



Look at what people are wearing. What clues show that the weather is cooler?

4

Weather



Talk about what the sky, trees, and ground tell you about the season.

Keep Learning



- Follow this story with *A Stroll Through the Seasons* by Kay Barnham.
- Watch or sing along to a simple seasons song.
- Ask: What season do we see outside today?

Extending the Book with Social Studies

This story can help children think about similarities, differences, and the idea that everyone is unique. People may look different, like different things, and still share things in common.

Same and Different Favorites

1



Ask your child one question about a favorite thing.

2



Share your own answer.

3



Talk about whether your answers are the same or different.

4



Remind your child that people can be different and still belong.



Ask About Favorites

- Favorite color
- Favorite snack
- Favorite holiday
- Favorite movie
- Favorite song
- Favorite book
- Favorite drink



Discuss Together

- What is something we both like?
- What is something we like differently?
- Why is it okay for people to be different?

Extending the Book with Art

Children can create a colorful quilt inspired by Dolly's coat. This project gives them a chance to design something bright, personal, and full of patterns.

-  Start with a blank sheet of paper and draw lines to divide it into square boxes.
-  Remember that the boxes do not have to be perfect, just like the coat in the story.
-  Fill each square with colors, patterns, and creative designs.
-  Sign and date the finished artwork so it can be proudly displayed.

Quilt of Many Colors



★ Create something colorful and proud. ★



LITERACY
BRIDGES