



A New Coat for Anna Study Guide

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For the book by
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Synopsis

A New Coat for Anna is the story of a young girl and her mother living in the aftermath of World War II. The war is over, but the stores are still empty, there is very little food, and no one has any money. Anna has outgrown the coat she has worn for years, and her mother devises a plan to provide a new coat for Anna. With patience, hard work, and sacrifice, her mother is able to do exactly that. Author Harriet Ziefert based *A New Coat for Anna* on the true story of Ingeborg Schraft Hoffman, M.D., whose mother, Hanna Schraft, began with a few belongings and ended by providing her daughter with a beautiful, new coat.

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Which of these words describes how the tailor felt? _____

Why do you think he felt that way? _____

6. On the way home wearing her new coat, Anna stopped at every store to look at her reflection in the windows. Was she being vain or pleased? _____

Why do you think so? _____

7. Anna and her mother plan a celebration for Christmas. Who do they invite?

Why do you think Anna and her mother invited them? _____

Dig Deeper

1. Define *patience*. _____

Were Anna and her mother patient? How can you tell? _____

2. Read Proverbs 14:29. "A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly." *Paraphrase* this verse. (To *paraphrase* means to write the verse in your own words.) _____

Is it difficult to be patient? Why or why not? _____

Answer Key

Before-you-read Activities

2. World War II began in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. France and Great Britain declared war on Germany as a result. World War II ended in 1945, when Germany surrendered in May, and Japan surrendered in September.

As-you-read Activities

1. Reading across the table, the answers should be as follows:

1.	wool	a farmer	a gold watch	Late fall, through winter into part of spring
2.	wool spun into yarn	elderly woman	a lamp	from the rest of spring to the start of summer
3.	red dye	Anna and her Mother	gathered lingonberries for dye	until the end of summer
4.	yarn woven into cloth	weaver	garnet necklace	two weeks into the fall
5.	cloth made into coat	tailor	porcelain teapot	one week

2. The time line should show the following things: Sheep are sheared in the spring. Yarn is ready at the start of summer. Yarn is dyed at the end of summer. Yarn has been made into cloth two weeks into fall (small segment of fall on time line). Coat is ready one week later (smaller segment of fall on time line). Anna waited one full year for her coat.

Vocabulary

1. to cut or clip wool from sheep; 2. to color or stain; 3. the act of bartering, making a deal or exchanging one thing for another; 4. to comb wool before spinning; 5. not pliant or limber; difficult to move; 6. a red gemstone; 7. a roll of cloth; 8. a likeness or image in a mirror or other surface; 9. a fine translucent china from which dishes are made.

Mystery Word:

1. dye; 2. card; 3. trade; 4. shear; 5. garnet; 6. bolt; 7. stiff; 8. reflection; 9. porcelain.

Mystery Words: PLANNED AHEAD. Answers to question will vary.

Looking at the Story

1. Answers will vary. They either had no car, or gasoline was scarce, or possibly they had no money for gas. Answers will vary.

2. No, she does not seem worried. The illustrations show both Anna and her mother cheerfully doing the things that need to be done. This verse tells us not to worry about what we wear. God will take care of us.

3. Answers will vary.

4. Answers will vary. He wanted to show potential customers what fine work he can do.

5. pleased: satisfied, happy; proud: exulting, self-respecting, conceited; vain: conceited, stuck-up, feeling superior. The tailor most likely felt pleased or proud. He was happy with his work, and happy that the work was done. He does not show conceit or vanity.

6. Anna was pleased. She was happy about having a new coat. She does not show conceit or vanity.

7. Anna and her Mother invite the farmer, the spinning woman, the weaver, and the tailor. Answers will vary. Perhaps