

**3rd Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: The Quiltmaker’s Gift**

**Author:** Jeff Brumbeau and Gail de Marcken

**Main characters:** Quiltmaker, King

**Executive summary:** A quiltmaker teaches a greedy king the happiness that is found in helping others and giving to those who need it most.

**Detailed summary**: An old quiltmaker lived high up in the mountains. There she sewed the most beautiful quilts using all the colors in nature. But the quilts were not for sale, even though many people were willing to pay a lot of money for them. Her quilts were for the poor and the homeless.

On the coldest nights, she would come down from the mountain, and if she saw someone sick and homeless, she would wrap one of her quilts around them and go back to the mountain top to make another.

The land was ruled by a greedy king, who was so greedy that he ordered everyone in the land to give him presents. He even celebrated his birthday twice a year. He wanted all the most beautiful things in the kingdom. Even though he had countless amounts of things, it was never enough. He still was not happy. He thought there must be one thing out there that he didn’t have that would make him happy.

When the king heard about the quiltmaker, he ordered her to give him one of her quilts, but she said she only gave them to the poor and needy. She told him that if he gave away all his possessions, she would make him a quilt, one square for every item he gave away.

He was outraged. He did not give things away. He forced people to give their things to him. He tried to take a quilt, but she threw it out the window and it blew away on the wind. Now the king was furious. He put chains on the old quiltmaker and took her to another mountain where he chained her to a rock in a cave. Continued on Back

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He ordered her again to make him a quilt, but she refused. So he left her in the cave with a sleeping bear, which he thought would maul the old woman when he awoke. But the quiltmaker made the bear a pillow out of her cape and some leaves. The bear was so appreciative of her kindness that he broke the chains to free her.

The king was feeling bad about leaving the old woman to die, so he sent his soldiers back to get her. When they arrived she was having breakfast with the bear. Once again the King was furious. This time he ordered the soldiers to build a tiny island on which the quiltmaker could only stand. Again he ordered her to make him a quilt, but she refused. So he left her on the island where she would drown when she got tired of standing.

Then a sparrow flew by and landed on the quiltmaker’s shoulder. The bird was shivering from the cold wind, so the quiltmaker quickly made him a coat from the fabric from her vest. After her kind act, the air filled with thousands of small sparrows. They picked up the woman with their tiny beaks and placed her on the shore. Again the king’s guilt of what he had done disturbed his sleep. So he ordered his soldiers to go to the lake and free the woman. But when they got there, she was in a tree making coats for the birds who had helped her.

The king was frustrated. He asked the woman what he must do to get her to make him a quilt. She told him again to give away all his possessions. This time he agreed, and when he returned to the castle he gave away just one small marble. It made a boy so happy that the king decided to give away more things. He gave coats to people who had none, which made them very happy. The king gave away more and more things. The smiles of those who received his gifts made him smile a little too. The people danced and even the king danced. It made him so happy to give his things away, that he decided to give everything away.

As the king gave away his things, the quiltmaker made him a quilt. She added a piece for everything he gave away. Soon everyone in the kingdom had received gifts from the king. Then he began to give things away to people in other lands throughout the world. Each time he gave something, he sent a sparrow back to the quiltmaker. The quilt grew bigger and more beautiful. Then the last sparrow landed.

The quiltmaker searched for the king. She found him, his clothes tattered and torn, but his heart was happy. He had a loud wonderful laugh. The quiltmaker wrapped the quilt around him. She told him that she kept her promise to make him a quilt only when he himself was poor and now he was. But the king did not consider himself poor, for he had so many wonderful memories of the happiness he caused for others. She gave him the quilt anyway and in return he gave her the last possession he owned, his throne. And in the years that followed the quiltmaker sewed her beautiful quilts and the king come up to the mountain to carry them down to give them away to those who needed them.

And that made him very happy.