

Ramona's Quilt

by Danielle Williams



- 1 Ramona rushed to the car. "Ballet practice was great! My ballet teacher chose me for the part of Maria in *The Nutcracker*," she told her dad.
- 2 "Congratulations, Ramona," said her father. "I'm proud of you. Your mom and grandmother will be proud too."
- 3 "Let's hurry, Dad," said Ramona. "I'll be late for my soccer game."
- 4 Ramona's dad sighed. "Sometimes, I think your activities keep you much too busy."

5 “Dad, I love all my activities. And I’m doing fine in school,” laughed Ramona.

6 It was very late when Ramona and her father got home from the game. She said hello to her mom and gave *abuela* a kiss. *Abuela*, which means “grandmother,” had moved to Chicago from Mexico. She was a quiet woman who loved to make quilts. Her hands were always busy with fabric and needles. Ramona loved her grandmother. However with her busy schedule, Ramona rarely had time to spend with her.

7 As the date for *The Nutcracker* approached, Ramona was away at ballet practice more and more. When Ramona wasn’t dancing, she was playing soccer or practicing the piano. Her schoolwork started to suffer. As much as Ramona hated to admit it, she was too busy.

8 After soccer practice one night, her parents met Ramona at the door. They told her that her teacher had called. He had informed them that Ramona was not doing well in school.

9 “I don’t know what to do,” Ramona cried. “I’m always busy with ballet or piano or soccer. Sometimes, I’m just too tired to finish my homework. Maybe I should quit everything! I’m not having fun doing anything.”

10 “Ramona, quitting is not the answer. Get a good night’s rest, and we’ll talk again,” said her dad. Her parents left Ramona alone in the kitchen.

11 After some time, her grandmother walked into the kitchen and placed a large box in front of Ramona. She looked at her grandmother.

12 “Here’s a gift for you,” Abuela said softly.

13 Ramona opened the box. Inside was a quilt. She gently unfolded it. For the first time, Ramona saw what her grandmother had been working on. Ramona’s eyes

moved from square to square. Each one contained a picture. On one square, she saw Maria from *The Nutcracker*. On another was Ramona as a soccer player. Thread and fabric showed musical notes, her family, the Mexican flag, and much more.

14 “Abuela,” whispered Ramona, “I had no idea what you were making. It’s beautiful—so full and rich.”

15 “It’s a picture of your life, Ramona,” said Abuela.

16 “But my life is a mess,” replied Ramona. “It’s too full! I’m not doing well at anything.”

17 “Now, Ramona,” said Abuela, “you know that isn’t true. You always do everything well—when you don’t have too much to do.”

18 “What should I do?” asked Ramona.

19 “Well, let’s see,” Abuela continued. “You’re a wonderful dancer. You should perform in *The Nutcracker*. However you must take a break from soccer and piano for a short while. Your talents will not disappear. They are a part of you, just like these squares are a part of the quilt.”

20 “Do you really think so? I really want to dance in *The Nutcracker*. Maybe taking a break could help. I can play soccer during the summer. I can start my piano lessons again after *The Nutcracker*.”

21 “That’s a good idea,” said Abuela. “And you’ll have time to enjoy each activity.”

22 “Yes, that’s true,” said Ramona. “I’ve been too busy trying to do everything—all at once,” said Ramona.

23 “Let’s hang the quilt in your room,” suggested Abuela. “It will remind you of who you are and all that you can do.”

24 “Thank you, Abuela,” said Ramona. “Your gift has helped me solve a big problem.” Ramona gave her grandmother a big hug.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story is mainly about a girl
 - a** whose parents make her quit her extra activities.
 - b** whose grandmother helps her solve a problem.
 - c** who has trouble with her schoolwork.
- 2 Ramona didn't spend much time with her grandmother because she
 - a** loved doing lots of different things.
 - b** and her grandmother didn't get along.
 - c** wasn't interested in making quilts.

- 3 Ramona was not doing well in school because she
 - a** didn't like doing her homework.
 - b** was too tired to do her homework.
 - c** thought the homework was too hard.
- 4 If Ramona's grandmother had not talked to her, Ramona probably would have
 - a** quit school.
 - b** quit soccer and piano.
 - c** Neither **a** nor **b**
- 5 Abuela's gift to Ramona was really
 - a** the quilt that Abuela had made.
 - b** the time spent helping Ramona solve her problems.
 - c** Both **a** and **b**

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 cloth (6)
- 2 list of things to do; daily calendar (6)
- 3 seldom; hardly ever (6)
- 4 become worse (7)
- 5 told; notified (8)
- 6 included; held (13)
- 7 special skills; abilities (19)

C A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

The *fly* buzzed around the room.
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

- 8 **fine** (5)
 - a** very good; excellent
 - b** delicate; fragile
- 9 **gift** (12)
 - a** skill; talent
 - b** present
- 10 **rich** (14)
 - a** handsome; magnificent
 - b** wealthy; well-to-do

THINK ABOUT IT

D Wendy took a *long* trip.

When you describe something, you use an adjective. *Long* is an adjective.

Al's trip was *longer* than hers.

When you compare two things, you usually add *-er* to an adjective. *Longer* compares two trips.

Jim's trip was *longest* of all.

When you compare three or more things, you usually add *-est* to an adjective. *Longest* compares three or more trips.

Read the sentences. Which word in parentheses () fits each sentence? Write the word.

- 1 Ramona was the (smaller, smallest) person in her house.
- 2 Ramona was (younger, youngest) than Abuela.
- 3 Ramona thought that science was (harder, hardest) than math.
- 4 Today's ballet practice was (longer, longest) than yesterday's.
- 5 Abuela was the (older, oldest) member of the family.

E Read each question. Write *a* or *b*.

- 6 Which sentence says that Ramona ran quickly?
 - a Ramona rushed to the car.
 - b Ramona went to the car.
- 7 Which sentence says that Ramona was unhappy?
 - a Ramona cried as her parents told her what her teacher said.
 - b Ramona listened as her parents told her what her teacher said.

8 Which sentence says that Ramona was in a hurry?

- a Ramona opened the wrapped gift.
- b Ramona ripped the wrappings from the gift.

9 Which sentence says that Ramona was pleased?

- a Ramona looked at the quilt.
- b Ramona admired the quilt.

10 Which sentence says that Ramona was grateful?

- a Ramona thanked her grandmother.
- b Ramona said goodnight to her grandmother.

F A word was left out of each sentence. Look at the two words in **bold type**. Which word best completes the sentence? Write the word.

- 11 You need fabric, thread, and a _____ to sew.
needle spoon
- 12 Your favorite subject might be math, science, or _____.
reading skateboarding
- 13 Some children play soccer, baseball, or _____ after school.
homework basketball
- 14 You might see a play, a piano concert, or a _____ on the stage.
soccer game ballet
- 15 You might wear shorts, a T-shirt, and _____ to play soccer.
tennis shoes mittens