Starting Up:

- Take out a picture of yourself as a child and talk about one of your childhood memories.
- Explain that the author of this book is sharing a memory from her own childhood.
- Look at the cover illustration together and have your child name the colors and patterns on the girl’s coat.

Reading the Story:

- The pictures show a house, farm, and school near some mountains. Ask what things in the girl’s environment are different from yours. What things are similar?
- When children say mean things about the girl’s coat, talk about teasing and how hurtful it can be. Point out the girl’s confident choice to share her feelings and talk about positive things.

After the Story:

- Ask your child questions about the story.
  - What activities did the family do together in the story?
  - How did the girl feel about her coat? How did her classmates feel about it?
  - When they teased her, did she stop wearing it? Why not?
- Learning on the Go:
  - Collect fabric and make something together. Point out that reusing fabric not only saves money but can also be good for the environment.
  - Spend time with family members making music and dancing, like the family in the book. Make your own instruments out of household items or turn on the radio and dance to its tunes.

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