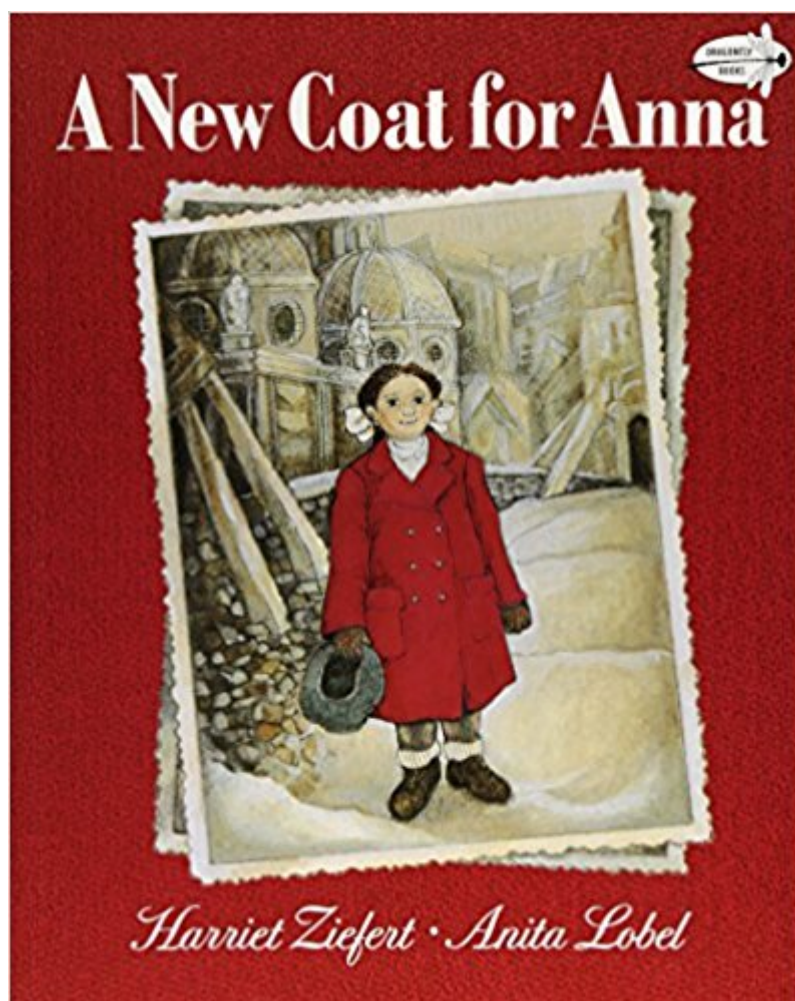


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# A New Coat For Anna (Dragonfly Books)



## Synopsis

Illus. in full color. "A fresh and moving story of a mother's dedication to acquire a coat for her daughter in post-World War II hard times. Anna's mother decides to trade the few valuables she has left for wool and for the services of a spinner, a weaver, and a tailor. Lobel's pictures do a tremendous job of evoking the period. Insightful and informative, this may make children consider how precious the ordinary can become in times of turmoil."--(starred) Booklist.Ã Â Ã Â

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0690 (What's this?)

Series: Dragonfly Books

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (May 12, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394898613

ISBN-13: 978-0394898612

Product Dimensions: 7.8 x 0.2 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #84,457 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books

> Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #68 inÃ Â Books

> Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #80 inÃ Â Books >

Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

A rebuilding of the country after war and the gradual attainment of a much-needed new coat are deftly woven themes, luminously portrayed by Lobel. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Illus. in full color. "A fresh and moving story of a mother's dedication to acquire a coat for her daughter in post-World War II hard times. Anna's mother decides to trade the few valuables she has left for wool and for the services of a spinner, a weaver, and a tailor. Lobel's pictures do a tremendous job of evoking the period. Insightful and informative, this may make children consider

how precious the ordinary can become in times of turmoil."--(starred) "Booklist.

This is a lovely book. I had it as a child, and love sharing it with my children now. It tells the story of a little girl who needs a new coat in post-war Europe. She and her mother barter for the various items needed to make the coat, and it takes a full year. It teaches children the work that goes into making clothing, how important this new winter coat would be, and how proud Anna was when it was finally done. It shows children in a simple way how things were done in the past, and how far we are removed from that way of life today.

This is a sweet story about how a little girl gets a new coat during the difficult years after World War II. Her resourceful mother must trade some of her treasures to get the wool, the spinning, the weaving, and the sewing done for Anna's new coat. My daughter belongs to a FIAR (Five in a Row by Jane Claire Lambert) co-op of six 1st-2nd girls this year, and I hosted the co-op for this book. This book is featured in FIAR Volume 2, and the book has plenty of ideas for activities and discussions. Using the FIAR book as a springboard, this is what we discussed/did: 1. WWII and how devastating it was. How difficult the aftermath of war is for ordinary people, no matter which side of the war they are on. Interestingly, we are not told where Anna and her mother live. 2. Sacrifice, how Anna's mother gave up her special treasures so that Anna would be warm, comfortable, and healthy in the winter with her new coat. 3. Sheep, how important they are to farmers in many countries because they provide milk, sheepskin, meat, and wool. Also discussed shearing. Activity: Made a spring sheep picture with a template I found on the Internet and cotton balls. 4. Measurement, metric versus U.S. Customary Unit. Activity: Measured items of their choosing in both US and metric units, and filled out a chart. 5. Dyes, how roots, nuts, and flowers were used for thousands of years to add color to clothing and make paints. Activity: Tie Dye tee shirts. 6. Bartering, its history, the problems with bartering and why it was generally replaced by money, but how Anna's mother was able to barter when she had no money. 7. Weaving, its history, some vocabulary, types of looms. Activity: Weaving on small looms I made out of foamcore. The kids wove with yarn, strips of fabric, and beads. 8. Vocabulary - clothesline, war, shear, porcelain, card, loganberries, garnet, and weave. This book is VERY similar to the book, "Pelle's New Suit" by Elsa Beskow, published in the 1920s, even down to the thanking of the lambs at the end! That book is also worth hunting down, the illustrations are just lovely. It could be a nice project to compare and contrast the two stories.

Great book, very disappointing edition. See the bright red cover pictured? That's what I have from

the public library. What I just got from is dim, dark maroon, both the background and Anna's coat. I have the two in front of me and it's like night and day. The light is sucked out of it, making it immensely less appealing. Unfortunately the color differences continue inside. All the wonderful illustrations are colder in tone, and it changes the feel of the book. The older edition was printed on creamy paper and the newer on dead white. That may have been enough to make the difference in the pictures, but it hardly seems so. This no longer seems like the great Christmas gift I was planning. Maybe the paperback edition is better, but I doubt it.

A perfect book to teach young learners about services and goods. The story follows the path from shearing the sheep, to spinning the wool, to dyeing the wool, to making the cloth, which is use to make the coat. It is a year long process and the author follows the journey while also telling a story of a family picking up the pieces after the war. A beautiful story that connects to economics for primary children.

Fantastic book to use right before Christmas to launch into wants/needs, goods/services, scarcity and bartering/trading as a form of payment. I have used for the last 3 years to meet CC Social Studies standards for above mentioned areas in my first grade classroom. The kids really enjoy this story. It pairs well with The Ox-Cart Man and leads right into "The Legend of the Poinsettia", an adaptation by Tomie dePaola if you have accompanied it with videos on sheering, spinning and weaving.

I bought this as a gift for my granddaughter because she used to read and read this book as a young girl then it got lost. Now she wanted it to be able to read to her daughter and my great granddaughter.

I remember my 2nd grade teacher reading this book to us. Anyway, since I remember it from when I was in 2nd grade (and I'm a grown women with two kids now, obviously it was a book that I enjoyed). It's a good story about the aftermath of WWII, and a little girl needing a new winter coat and what her mother does to get her a new coat. I highly recommend. It arrived within a week with Free Super Saving Shipping - and I love 's book prices, you can't beat it!

My 4 year old sons new favorite book! He asked to have it read several days in a row, which is unheard of for him. I used it as part of Christmas School in our homeschool pre-k and found that it

had a lot of different teaching/learning aspects.

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