

Paula's Patches

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Synopsis: Embarrassed about a hole in her pants, creative and resourceful Paula covers it with a patch, and discovers her classmates also have leaky, stained, and hand-me-down items that could benefit from a colorful patch.

Suggested Reading Date: September (National Sewing Month); April (Earth Day); May 21 (I Need a Patch for That Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Makerspace: Have students work to create something to use out of things that aren't useable anymore. Ideas include: socks with holes, plastic bottles, cardboard from boxes, bubble wrap, leftover wrapping paper, pictures from birthday cards or magazines, loose playing cards, broken bits of jewelry, (clean) cloth masks.
- Makerspace: Watch the videos below to make a no-sew pillow and a fabric pouch.
- Discuss the idea of Hand-Me-Downs. Ask students to share something handed down to them. Ask them about something they have handed down.
- Discuss "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" concept with students. Which one of these is Paula using? How can you make something fun, artistic or useful from things that would usually go in the trash or recycling?
- Write a "Hand Me Down" story:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0e403dddb9ca0001a1a686/t/65985a58f5406d499a34f467/1704483416380/My+Hand+Me+Down+Story.pdf>
- Design your own patches (for yourself or for a partner):
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0e403dddb9ca0001a1a686/t/659851c721318d54e487ceb8/1704481223768/k_2_handout_draw+your+own+patches.pdf

Related Websites:

- Author's website: <https://www.writebetween.com/picture-books>
- Illustrator's website: <https://catagencyinc.com/rocio-arreola/>
- Leader's Guide to Paula's Patches:
<https://www.teachercreatedmaterials.com/estore/files/pdownloads/paulas-patches-leaders-guide-rd2.pdf>
- Video - How to make a fabric pouch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1f-vHPXNRM>
- Video – How to make a no-sew pillow:
<https://youtu.be/vlwATtRRAdA?si=HUrPK77rnhmdeliX>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller, *Potato Pants* by Laurie Keller, *The Smart Cookie* by Jory John, *What Do You Do with an Idea?* By Kobi Yamada, *Me and the Boss* by Michelle Edwards, *What Can You Do with a Rock?* by Pat Zietlow Miller

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