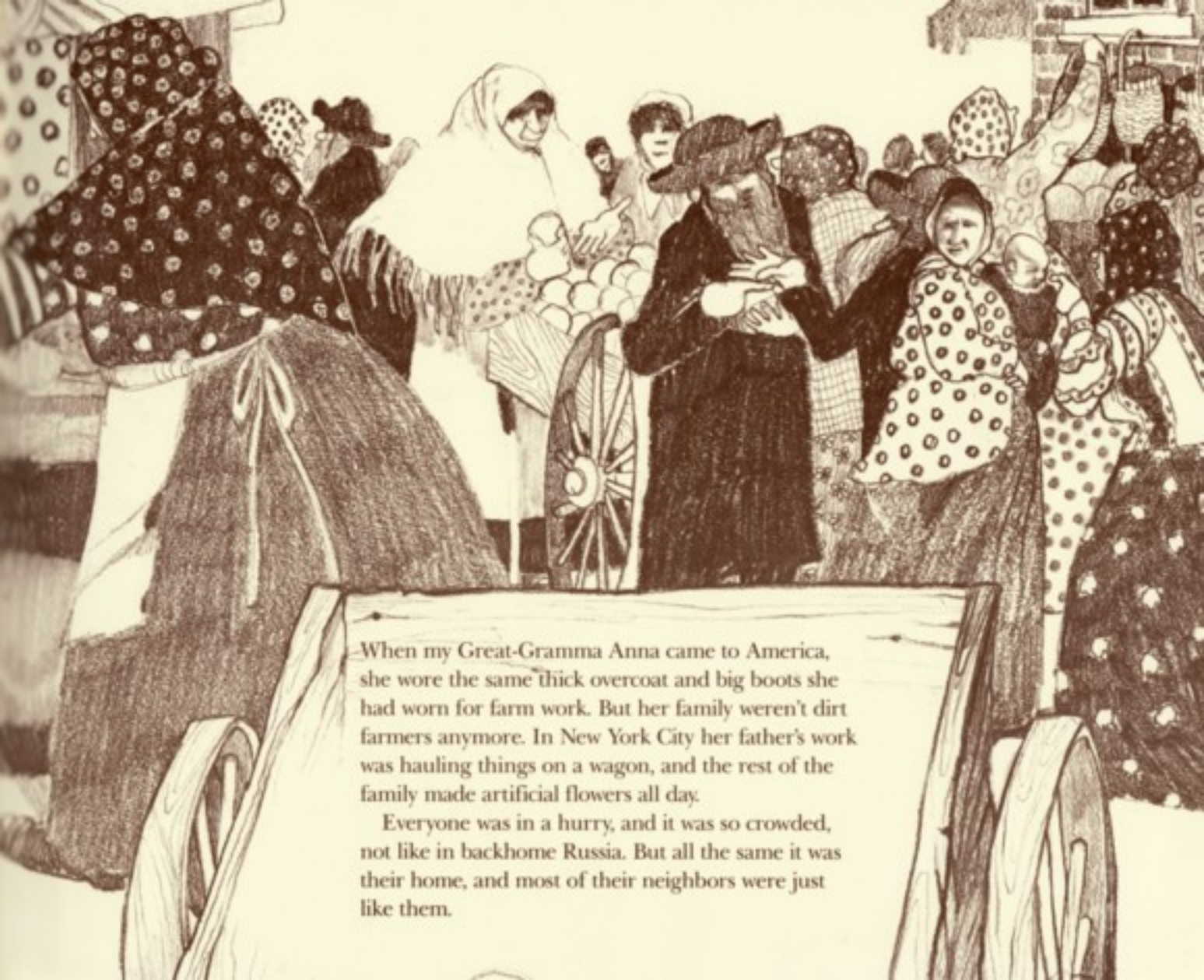


The Keeping Quilt

Patricia Polacco





When my Great-Gramma Anna came to America, she wore the same thick overcoat and big boots she had worn for farm work. But her family weren't dirt farmers anymore. In New York City her father's work was hauling things on a wagon, and the rest of the family made artificial flowers all day.

Everyone was in a hurry, and it was so crowded, not like in backhome Russia. But all the same it was their home, and most of their neighbors were just like them.



When Anna went to school, English sounded to her like pebbles dropping into shallow water. *Shhhhhh....Shhhhhh....Shhhhhh.* In six months she was speaking English. Her parents almost never learned, so she spoke English for them, too.



The only things she had left of backhome Russia were her dress and the babushka she liked to throw up into the air when she was dancing.

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"This book has become almost as important to me as the quilt itself.... It is a wonderful way to not only introduce my remarkable family, but also demonstrate their personal triumphs, disappointments, and their ever-powerful love that has reached across six generations and an ocean of time."

Patricia Polacco, author/illustrator

