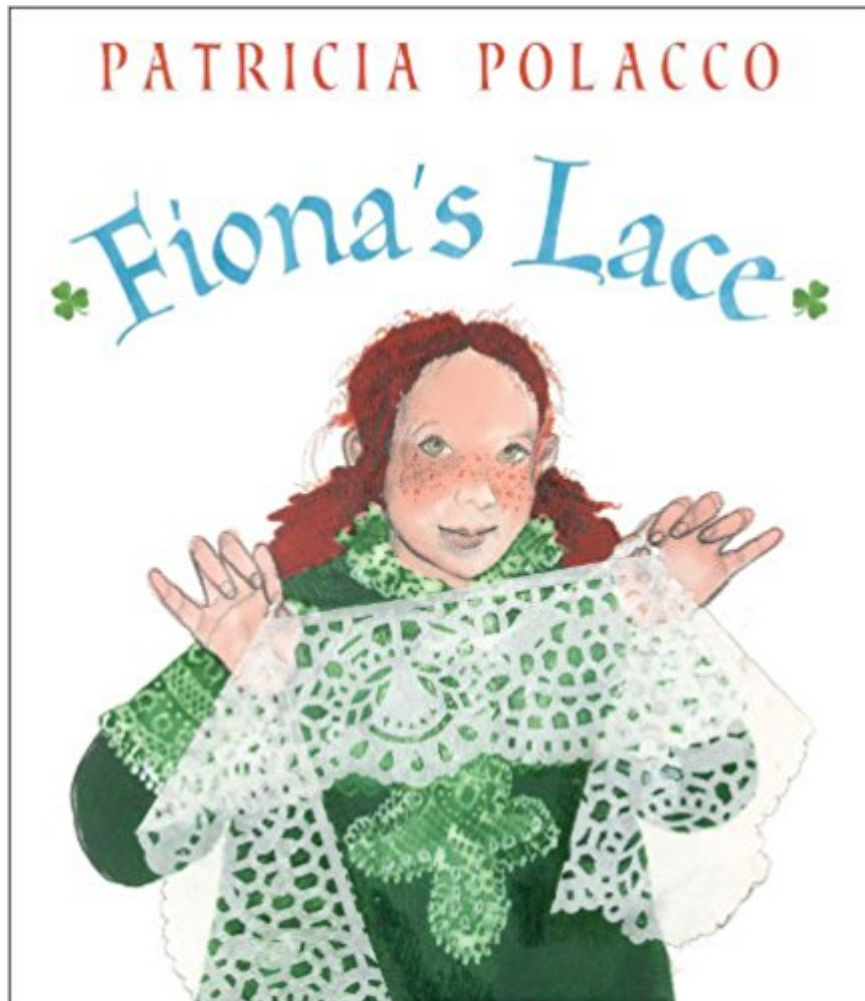




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# Fiona's Lace



## Synopsis

An Irish family stays together with the help of Fiona's talent for making one-of-a-kind lace in this heartwarming immigration story from the New York Times bestselling creator of *The Keeping Quilt*. Many years ago, times were hard in all of Ireland, so when passage to America becomes available, Fiona and her family travel to Chicago. They find work in domestic service to pay back their passage, and at night Fiona turns tangles of thread into a fine, glorious lace. Then when the family is separated, it is the lace that Fiona's parents follow to find her and her sister and bring the family back together. And it is the lace that will always provide Fiona with memories of Ireland and of her mother's words: "In your heart your true home resides, and it will always be with you as long as you remember those you love." This generational story from the family of Patricia Polacco's Irish father brims with the same warmth and heart as the classic *The Keeping Quilt* and *The Blessing Cup*, which *Kirkus Reviews* called "deeply affecting" in a starred review, and embraces the comfort of family commitment and togetherness that Patricia Polacco's books are known for.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD740L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books (August 26, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442487240

ISBN-13: 978-1442487246

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #182,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #239 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #355 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #475 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3 • Once again, Polacco has drawn on a rich family history to present this story of

courage, perseverance, and love. Young Fiona Hughes and her younger sister, Ailish, loved to hear their father's "grand stories," but their favorite was the one of how their parents met. Mick passed the lace parlor each day at lunch and took a liking to a young lass who worked there. None of the other girls, however, would tell him where she lived. One day he noticed a bit of fine lace tied to a bush and then another a bit farther away tied to a tree and then another, and another. The trail led straight to Annie's house and the couple's eventual marriage. Annie taught her fine skills to Fiona, a talent that would prove both profitable and lifesaving. When the local mill closed, the family left Ireland to work for a wealthy family in Chicago; in exchange for their work, their passage was taken care of, so they received no pay. Fiona's fine lace was beautiful, and there was a market for it, so she made lace while her parents had second jobs in the evenings, including the night of the Great Fire. Abandoning their home for a safer place that fateful night, Fiona and Ailish remembered their father's story and left a trail of lace to direct their parents to them. An endnote explains that a framed piece of Fiona's lace still rests with honor in Polacco's home. Illustrated with pencil and acetone markers in Polacco's recognizable style, this is a story with many themes and lessons—the love of family, the immigrant experience, and family history and stories passing from generation to generation, to name a few. It's sure to find an appreciative audience.

—Roxanne Burg,  
Orange County Public Library, CA

"Polacco adds to her library of autobiographical stories with this tale about her Irish forebear Fiona. Polacco's valuable portrait of hardship in Ireland and her descriptions of the unjust working conditions that immigrants encountered in the U.S. supplies a gritty picture of the immigrant experience." Publishers Weekly (Publishers Weekly, June 16, 2014)"Polacco's large and multiethnic family yields up another fine story, this one in greens and grays, lace and fire." Kirkus Reviews (Kirkus Reviews, July 2014)"Once again, Polacco has drawn on a rich family history to present this story of courage, perseverance, and love. Illustrated with pencil and acetone markers in Polacco's recognizable style, this is a story with many themes and lessons—the love of family, the immigrant experience, and family history and stories passing from generation to generation, to name a few. It's sure to find an appreciative audience." School Library Journal (School Library Journal September 2014)"The most compelling feature of this well-crafted immigrants' story is how it might inspire adults to share their own family stories with their kids." Booklist (Booklist September 1, 2014)

My young daughter and I checked this book out of the library, and because we liked it so much we

purchased it to add to our family's library. It is easy to forget how difficult it was for immigrants to come to America and build their American Dream. This story is true and breathes life into history and the heroism of a young girl. It makes me want to learn how to make Irish lace and to be sure I inspire family to hold on to precious family stories.

Pretty much any book by Patricia Polacco is going to be a tear jerker and this one is no exception. It's the story of an immigrant family from Ireland to America, and the living conditions and injustices faced by immigrants in the last century. And it's the story of human dignity and creativity. It's the story of the importance of hand work and ingenuity. I love how Polacco ties the thread together in the end.

This is Polacco at her best. I have all her books. My grandchildren choose her books to read or to listen to over anything else. If you do not have ALL of her books in your library, what are you waiting for here?

Wonderful and appropriate for preschool to third grade (4 to 8 yrs of age). Purchased for an elementary school library as an honorific for my mother-in-law by my wife (a working speech and language clinician) in consultation with a team of elementary media specialists.

I love all of Patricia's books as they teach life lessons, love and value of family unit, and the value of hard work. This tells a section of history as do all her books and shows that the early arrivals in America did not have it easy but they made it work and were successful. Lovely book. The pictures are perfect to help tell the story.

Another wonderful story by Ms. Polacco! A must have for any classroom library.

Great story and good author!

Great for kids.

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