

Kate Dudding, Storyteller

Bringing History to Life

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Knitted Four-Pointed Star

Many thanks to Kathie Boyle for suggesting that I create a 4-pointed star instead of a 5-pointed one.

Use worsted weight yarn and size 5 needles.

Cast on 13 sts. to create the rectangle at middle of the star.

Row 1. K12, ES. (right side)
Row 2. K1, P11, SL 1.

Beginning of the raised heart pattern.
Row 3. K6, P1, K5, ES.
Row 4. K1, P4, K1, P1, K1, P4, SL1.
Row 5. K4, P1, K3, P1, K3, ES.
Row 6. K1, P2, K1, P2, K1, P2, K1, P2, SL1.
Row 7. K2, P1, K2, P1, K1, P1, K2, P1, K1, ES
Row 8. K1, P2, K2, P3, K2, P2, SL1.
End of the raised heart pattern.

Row 9. K12, ES.

Start top point of star, wrong side.

Rows 10, 11, 12. K1, P11, SL 1.
Row 13. K1, DEC-L, K7, DEC-R, ES.
Rows 14, 15, 16. K1, P9, SL 1.
Row 17. K1, DEC-L, K5, DEC-R, ES.
Rows 18, 19, 20. K1, P7, SL 1.
Row 21. K1, DEC-L, K3, DEC-R, ES.
Rows 22, 23, 24. K1, P5, SL 1.
Row 25. K1, DEC-L, K1, DEC-R, ES.
Rows 26, 27, 28. K1, P3, SL 1.
Row 29. K1, DEC-L, K2 tog.
Row 30. SL1, P2 tog, pass slipped stitch over stitches just purled together.

Cut yarn with a 4" tail. Make a loop to hang the ornament: slip tail as a loop through last stitch and pull tight leaving a 1" tail beyond the last stitch. Put the tail through the loop and knot it. Weave in the end.

Start bottom point of the star:

A) Pick up 13 sts. from the bottom of the rectangle at middle of the star, right side facing you.
B) Repeat Rows 10-30 above.
C) Cut yarn with a 1" tail. Pull tail through last stitch and pull tight. Weave in the end.

Start left and right points of the star:

A) Pick up 7 sts. from one side of the rectangle at middle of the star, right side facing you.
B) Repeat Rows 22-30 above.
C) Cut yarn with a 1" tail. Pull tail through last stitch and pull tight. Weave in the end.



Abbreviations:

DEC-L slip 1 as if to knit, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over stitch just knitted
DEC-R knit 2 together
ES edge stitch: move yarn as if to purl, then slip the stitch
K knit
P purl
SL slip stitch as if purling
sts. stitches

Once there was a mother who knit sweaters for her daughter. The mother started knitting sweaters for the daughter even before the daughter was born, using the 'safe' colors: white and yellow and green. After the daughter was born, the mother also used pink and purple yarn. As the daughter grew, so did the sweaters.

After the daughter learned to talk, whenever the mother gave her a sweater, the daughter said, "Thanks, Mommy! I like this sweater the best."

When the daughter was ten, she asked, "Mommy, will you teach me how to knit?"

The mother smiled. "I would love to teach you to knit. I've been hoping that you would ask."

So the mother taught the daughter how to knit. First the daughter knit sweaters for her dolls. But then she started making sweaters for herself, then for her father and brother, her fiancé, her husband, her son, and her friends. But she never made a sweater for her mother. Once that thought flitted into her mind, that she should make a sweater for her mother. But she quickly dismissed it, without thinking much about it. "Whenever Mom sees a sweater she likes, she makes it for herself."

But the mother continued to knit sweaters for the daughter, even after the daughter was an adult.

The last sweater the mother made for the daughter was a red sweater with a pattern of raised hearts across the shoulders. It was warm and soft to the touch. When the mother gave the daughter that sweater, the daughter said,

"Thanks, Mom. I like this sweater the best. "

Six months after the mother finished that sweater, the mother died.

The daughter wore that sweater many, many times. And every time she wore it, she felt her mother's love.

The years went by. The sweater was eventually worn out. When the daughter realized that, she said to herself, "This sweater is worn out, but I don't want to throw it away. It's the last sweater my mother made for me. Isn't there something I can do?"

She looked and she thought. And then she smiled. "I know, I'll take the sleeves off the sweater, and use the good yarn from the sleeves to mend the body. Then I'll have a vest to wear."

That's what she did. The daughter wore that vest many, many times. And every time she wore it, she felt her mother's love.

The years went by. The vest was eventually worn out. When the daughter realized that, she said to herself, "This vest is worn out, but I don't want to throw it away. It's from the last sweater my mother made for me. Isn't there something I can do?"

She looked and she thought. And then she smiled. "I know, I'll take the vest apart and see how much good yarn there is." She ended up with a ball as a large grapefruit.

"I'll make a scarf from this yarn and knit the pattern of raised hearts all over it."

That's what she did. The daughter wore that scarf many, many times. And every time she wore it, she felt her mother's love.

The years went by. The scarf was eventually worn out. When the daughter realized that, she said to herself, "This scarf is worn out, but I don't want to throw it away. It's from the last sweater my mother made for me. Isn't there something I can do?"

She looked and she thought. And then she smiled. "I know, I'll take the scarf apart and see how much good yarn there is." She ended up with a ball only as big as a lemon.

"I can't make anything to wear out of only this much yarn. I know, I'll make a Christmas ornament, with a raised heart in the middle."

That's what she did. The daughter knew that whenever she saw the ornament on her Christmas tree, she would feel her mother's love.

But it wasn't Christmas time, so she put the ornament away with all her other Christmas ornaments.

She was left with a piece of good yarn only three inches long. "I know it's foolish to even ask, but is there anything I can do with this?" She looked and she thought. And then she smiled, because she was a storyteller as well as a knitter.

From that last piece of yarn, the daughter made *this story* for her mother. And she knew that whenever she told it, she would feel her mother's love.