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A Hug from Grandma

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Myself
Logan, Utah
December 5, 2017

“A hug from Grandma”

Material Culture

Informant:

I am a 19 year old sophomore at Utah State University. I was born and raised in Bountiful, Utah. I am studying English and aspire to be a high school English teacher. I love spending time with friends and enjoy making food and having people over to eat. I have one older brother and one younger brother. I come from a primarily LDS family.

Context:

Many of my family members have chosen to serve an 18-24 month proselyting mission for the LDS church, however, I have not. I decided instead to go to school. My immediate family is very supportive of what I chose to do, and my extended family means well, but they don't understand my decision. I am very close with members of my family who are currently on missions. My grandmother on my mom's side knits quilts for her grandchildren who serve missions. She says they are a “hug” from grandma so that when they feel like they need a little bit of home with them, they can cuddle with their quilt and feel like she is giving them a hug. Because I am the only grandchild who has decided not to serve a mission, I never expected to get one, however, when I went home for a school break, I visited my grandmother and she told me that even though I'm not on a mission, I still live away from home and could use a hug from grandma. She had made me a quilt as well.

Text:



Texture:

When my grandmother gave me my quilt, I finally felt as though my decision to not go on a mission was an OK one. Up until that moment, there had been some tension between my family and I about the matter. It was a very sweet moment and I cried. She was very sweet, yet straightforward about the whole thing. She made it seem as though she anticipated on making me a quilt all along.

Natalie Randall
Utah State University
Introduction to Folklore
Professor Lynne S. McNeill
Fall 2017