

“Let’s do this,” she mumbles. Mumbling covers loads of vocabulary mistakes, cooking mishaps and now sewing misdemeanors.

She plops down onto the sewing chair. Her body leans over the sewing machine. This is her second time in charge of a sewing machine. Maybe it is kind of like babysitting for the first time. It is a little daunting, not for her, but for the parents of the children or for the owner of the sewing machine. She is fearless, however. Her teen years will be exciting, she has been told. “Just go with the flow,” is the advice from aunties.

She flows as her fingers find the lever to correct the position of the sewing chair. She flows as she reaches for the On Button making contact as if she were in the pilot’s chair.

“This is kinda like my mom’s machine,” she mumbles. One of her aunties helped her discover the on-button, the fast forward switch and the up and down needle lever. “I made a small quilt then,” she explains as she puts her chosen five by five-inch fabric square underneath the needle. Her first quilt, the baby quilt, was a 12 by 12-inch square gift.

In no time this soon to be 13-year-old darling of the basketball court had chosen various fabric pieces that would look great together in her bedroom gracing her never-made bed. Following a tutorial from grandma, the teen at the helm flew into gear. High gear.

“Ah, perhaps we can slow down the needle pace,” says her grandma holding her hands behind her back so as not to intervene too much. “Just slide the lever over a little,” she suggests. “Just until you feel comfortable with the pace of the sewing rhythm.”

“It was fine,” comes the mumble.

“So, this is how a quilt becomes a ‘quilt-in-a-day’,” I mumble.

“What?” she says clearly.

In no time, the piecing is complete to her liking. She has even learned how to un-sew when the speed of the needle far exceeded the speed of the hand which was guiding the fabric. “I think this is big enough,” she decides as she holds up the 20 by 30-inch (or so) quilt.

“Now, I want to quilt it with a design,” she states in a commanding voice. She not only has learned to piece together a quilt, she has learned to speak up.

Perhaps, all that is needed to speak clearly is to speak as fast as the needle in a sewing machine can fly.

Lana Russ