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Creative Technical Studio 2

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“g”

“Gesundheit,” my grandmother’s voice said in a cheerful and playful tone as I wiped my nose with a tissue. It was a spring day in mid-April and we were sitting outside by the flowers my grandmother grew in her mini garden. I had never heard this funny word before and I was perplexed. “It means ‘bless you’ in German,” my grandmother informed me as she handed me the small, yellow, plastic watering can for the flowers. As I watered them, I pondered the word and how fun it was to say.

From that point on, I always used the word ‘gesundheit’ with my grandmother when one of us sneezed. It was wholly reserved for her and our time together. My grandmother was always one of my favorite people. She had the biggest heart and the most humble soul. She was warm, caring, strong, generous and smart. “Gesundheit” became a saying that I associated with my grandma's love, care, and joy. She always had a good sense of humor and loved with her whole heart. Now that she has passed away, I can't help but think of her whenever I hear the word. I never use it with other people because it is reserved for her in my mind. My grandma is someone who I continue to strive to be like in my own character and actions. She never complained, always joyfully served others and continually found joy in the joy of others. I think it is appropriate that the letter "g" is the first letter of gesundheit and grandma, so that both are so closely tied to my garment and it's inspiration.

I decided to go with a lower case “g” in my draping because I was a little girl when I first heard the word. After multiple draping ideas, I draped the sleeves as two upside down lower case “g’s” sewn together. I liked the way this looked because it was almost kid like in it’s playfulness of the sleeves. It reminded me of a young girl playing with her sleeves and hiding her hands in the ginormous sleeves. The delicate lace is old timey and reminds me of old photographs of my grandmother. The lace blouse will be lined with a knit top underneath it. The design recalls the comfort and grace of my grandmother and the playfulness of the word ‘gesundheit’ and our relationship.

“Gesundheit” translated literally means “good health” in German. My grandmother lived until she was 93 and passed away peacefully in her sleep. For a woman who grew up during the Great Depression and used to have a smoking habit when she was young, she was one of the healthiest people I knew. Her body aged just how it should, with no additional diseases or issues. This indeed was a blessing. Now when I tell someone “bless you,” or “gesundheit” it has a new meaning – I truly am wishing them the good health by grandmother had in her life.