

# About the Inspiration Cloth

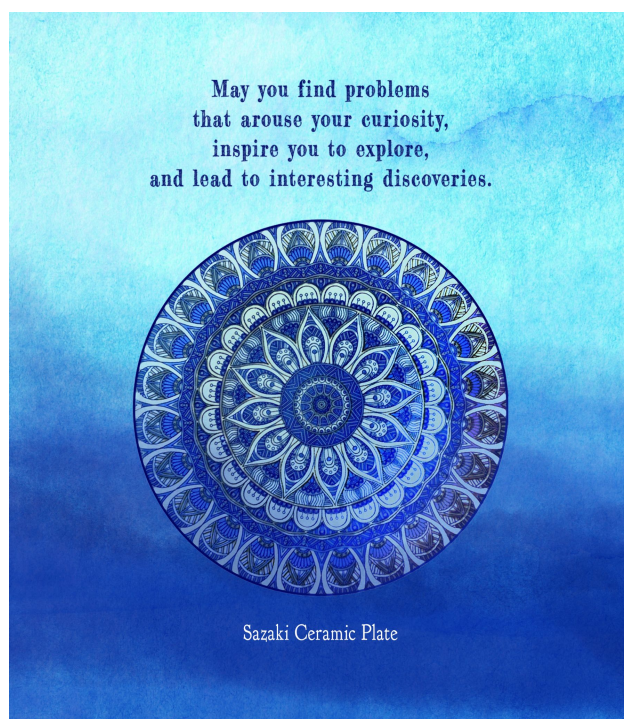
My goal was to make something both inspirational and useful. Our gift can be used to clean glasses, screens, and other surfaces. I appreciate ideas from the following books:

- *How to Solve It* by George Polya
- *A Mathematician's Lament: How School Cheats Us Out of Our Most Fascinating and Imaginative Art Form* by Paul Lockhart

"[If the teacher] challenges the curiosity of his students by setting them problems proportionate to their knowledge, and helps them to solve their problems with stimulating questions, he may give them a taste for, and some means of, independent Thinking." —*How to Solve It*, second paragraph from the preface to the First Printing, page v.

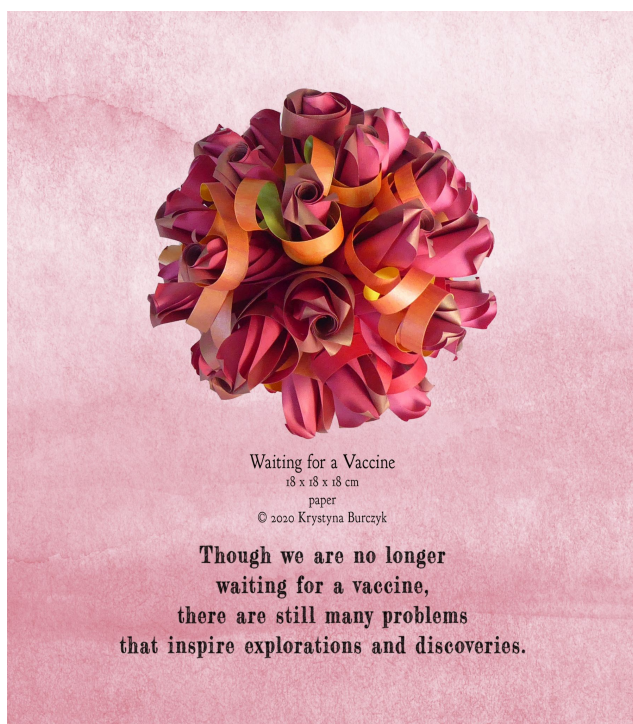
"A good problem is something you don't know how to solve. That's what makes it a good puzzle, and a good opportunity. A good problem does not just sit there in isolation, but serves as a springboard to other interesting questions." —*A Mathematician's Lament*, second to last paragraph, page 41.

"Give your students a good problem, let them struggle and get frustrated. See what they come up with. Wait until they are dying for an idea, then give them some technique. But not too much."  
—*A Mathematician's Lament*, top of page 42.



This picture excludes the contact information included on this exchange gift.

## Artwork



I really like the geometric pattern on a plate that I recently purchased so I took a photo of it and put it on the front of the cloth.

When searching for another image, I came across *Waiting for a Vaccine* from the 2021 Bridges Math Art. I'm impressed with how Krystyna Burczyk represents the coronavirus with colored paper. She gave me permission to include her image on the cloth.

I wanted to come up with a quote that fit well with the quote on the front and Krystyna's *Waiting for a Vaccine*.

For the quotes, I selected the font **Fredericka the Great** because it is casual but classic.

Skona Brittain has been wonderful at reviewing ideas and making suggestions along the way.

Nancy Blachman