'Tea and Sympathy' Shawl
Lion Brand® Homespun®

GAUGE:

7 sts + 6 rows = 4 inches [10 cm] in lacy pattern. When you match the gauge in a pattern, your project will be the size specified in the pattern and the materials specified in the pattern will be sufficient. The needle or hook size called for in the pattern is based on what the designer used, but it is not unusual for gauge to vary from person to person. If it takes you fewer stitches and rows to make your swatch, try using a smaller size hook or needles; if more stitches and rows, try a larger size hook or needles.

Making a Gauge Swatch

STITCH EXPLANATION:

**LACY PATTERN**
Row 1 Sc in each st, ch 2, turn.
Row 2 Repeat row 1. Ch 5, turn.
Row 3 Tr in each st, ch 2, turn. Repeat Rows 1 – 3 for lacy pattern.

**SHAWL**

Note: All measurements are approximate; this garment is very stretchy.
Using A, ch 9. Sc into the 2nd ch from hook and each ch across – 7 scs. Ch 2, turn. Inc 1 st in first and last st, work row 2. Work row 3 of lacy pattern. Continuing to work rows 1 – 3 of lacy pattern and inc in first and last sts of rows 1 and 2, work until A yarn is finished. Fasten off.

**EDGING**

With B and smaller crochet hook, sc evenly along diagonal side edges of shawl. Fasten off. Join C in first sc, *ch 7, sc in next st; repeat from * along side edges of shawl. Fasten off. Weave in ends.

**Abbreviations**

beg = begin(s)(ning)
ch(s) = chain(s)
inc = increas(e)(s)(ing)
sc = single crochet
st(s) = stitch(es)
tr = treble (triple) crochet

Skill Level: Easy (Level 2)

Size: One Size Length 20 inches [51 cm] back waist length.

Corrections: None

Homespun Yarn: Windsor Quantity: 2 () balls (A) Price: $ 14.98

Homespun Yarn: Quartz Quantity: 1 () ball (B) Price: $ 7.49

Homespun Yarn: Barrington Quantity: 1 () ball (C) Price: $ 7.49

Lion Brand Crochet Hook - Size N-13 (9 mm) Quantity: 1 Price: $ 2.95

Lion Brand Crochet Hook - Size K-10.5 (6.5 mm) Quantity: 1 Price: $ 2.65

Lion Brand Large-Eye Blunt Needles (Set of 6) Quantity: 1 Price: $ 3.59
Writing about shawls made me want to knit them. Was there ever a more perfect way to wrap someone you love in warmth?

My children and my friends' children are now teenagers and young adults. They are experiencing the bumps and pains of the path to adulthood. I wanted to make them comforting shawls like the one Calliope's grandmother had the vision to knit carefully enough to hearten her grandchild long after she had died. I wanted a shawl that was like the tea and sympathy that has eased troubled minds for generations.

My oldest daughter was graduating from high school this year. I listened to her and her friends talk. They were jittery and excited and nervous about finally getting to do what they have been yearning for all year: to fly away from the nest. I knew that the months ahead would be thrilling, but hard on them. I thought "tea and sympathy" shawls would make a great graduation gifts.

I searched for a shawl pattern that was fast and easy to knit, and that would drape softly over young shoulders. I couldn't seem to find the right one. A knitting catalog arrived with a dropped-stitch shawl pattern with fringe, knit side to side. It was not the shawl I was searching for, but I could see that the drop stitch might be good for making a tea and sympathy shawl.

One spring evening, when my usually noisy house was quiet and empty, I sat alone with my shawl thoughts. I found a pair of circular needles and a few skeins of Homespun yarn. I had never really written my own pattern before, but how hard could it be? After all, a shawl is just a triangle.

After a few attempts, I was able to get a pattern going that I liked. I used garter and the drop stitch and I did simple increases every few rows to get a triangular shawl shape. The dropped stitch and the soft thickness of the Homespun yarn made my shawl grow fast. And when the shawl looked large enough to cover a range of shoulders and graze the elbows, I cast off the stitches. I took a light bright color from my Homespun stash and edged the v of the shawl with a single crochet border. I grabbed a third color. I crocheted a chain and made a loopy fringe. My first tea and sympathy shawl was done. I tried it on. It felt just like a hug.

I stepped outside. The evening had turned cool as it often does here in the spring. The shawl kept me cozy and warm. It was then that I realized that this tea and sympathy shawl, the first of many I would knit over the next few months, was for me.

You can knit a tea and sympathy shawl for a graduation gift, or a present for a very tired nursing mom. You can knit one for someone you know is going through a rocky time, or someone who just needs a sign that they are loved. The world is full of young and not so young people who need a tea and sympathy shawl. And, you, too, may be one of those worthy folks. So remember this: it is okay to knit one for yourself.