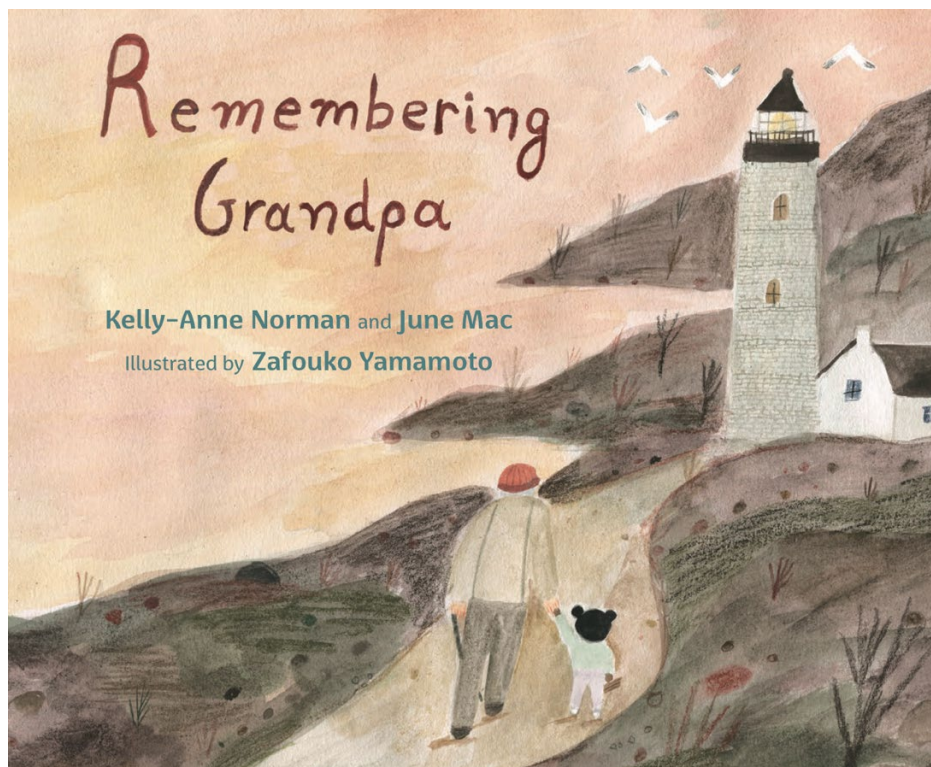


Remembering Grandpa

Teaching Notes

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SYNOPSIS

Aria has a fantastic memory. At five, she can recall many special moments, but is unable to remember her grandfather, who passed away several years earlier. As she talks to her family, Aria learns about Grandpa John — yet the warmth, adventure, and fun remain missing from her mind. But, when Mum reads from Grandpa's notebook, Aria finally discovers the best memory she could possibly have. Remembering Grandpa is a thoughtful and moving story about remembering loved ones and cherishing special moments together. Featuring captivating artwork that highlights the themes and emotions within.

Teaching Notes for Remembering Grandpa

Introduction

'Remembering Grandpa' explores themes of memory, family connection, and coping with loss. The book provides a sensitive framework for discussing intergenerational relationships and the role of memories in shaping identity. It aligns with key curriculum areas, including English (language and literacy), Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Through rich storytelling and relatable characters, students engage with social values, build emotional literacy, and develop critical thinking skills.

Curriculum Connections

English (Language and Literacy)

Relevant to the Literature strand, students will:

- Engage with the text by discussing narrative elements like character, setting, and theme (Year 1-6 ACELT1581-ACELT1605).
- Analyse figurative language in Grandpa John's poem (e.g., metaphor, rhyme) to explore how it conveys love and memory (Years 3, ACELT1606).
- Compose responses such as letters or creative writing inspired by Aria's journey, addressing both imaginative and reflective aspects (Year 4, ACELT1607).

HASS (History/Community and Identity)

Under the Personal and Community Histories strand, students will:

- Explore family stories and traditions, reflecting on how individuals are remembered (Years F-2 ACHASSK012).

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Aligned with the Personal and Social Capability curriculum, students will:

- Explore emotions like grief, joy, and love through role-play and discussions (Self-awareness strand).
- Build empathy by analysing character perspectives and expressing how they would help Aria (Social awareness strand).

Themes & Discussion Points

Memory and Family

1. How do we remember people who are no longer with us?

Discuss different ways we remember loved ones, such as through stories, traditions, photos, or special objects. Ask students to share how they or their families keep memories alive.

Extension: Students could create a Memory Wall in the classroom, displaying drawings, photographs, or items representing important people in their lives.

2. How do memories shape who we are today?

Explore how our past influences our present thoughts, behaviours, and relationships. Teachers can draw parallels to Aria's journey of discovering her Grandpa's personality through the memories of her family members.

Extension: Encourage students to reflect on their own family memories and how these shape their identity.

3. Why is it important to learn about people who came before us?

Explore the concept of generational knowledge and wisdom. Discuss how understanding our family's history helps us understand ourselves better and influences our future decisions.

Extension: Students could conduct a simple family interview with a parent or grandparent to learn more about their personal history and create a family tree.

4. Can we create new memories to honour someone?

Reflect on how acts of kindness, traditions, or creative works can honour someone who has passed away. Discuss how Aria honours her Grandpa through the memories others share and through his poem.

Extension: Have students design a new family tradition that could serve to honour someone they love.

5. What makes a memory special?

Discuss why some memories stand out more than others. What elements make these memories meaningful? For example, Aria learns through Grandpa John's poem that love transcends memory, making this memory particularly special.

Activity: Students bring in an object or memory about a family member to share with the class.

Love and Connection

How does love last beyond memory?

Aria learns that love for someone continues even when they are no longer physically present. Ask students to reflect on how love can be expressed and felt through memories, stories, and gestures.

Activity: Students create "memory pages" for Aria, either through art or writing, inspired by Grandpa John's poem, illustrating the theme of love that lasts beyond death.

Coping with Loss

How does Aria's family help her when she feels sad?

In Remembering Grandpa, Aria's family supports her as she processes her emotions about Grandpa John's passing. They help her by sharing memories and offering love, creating a safe space for Aria to understand and express her feelings. The story highlights the importance of family in providing comfort during difficult times.

Activity: Comforting Words and Actions

Discuss with students how people can show kindness and empathy to others who may feel sad or lonely. Aria's family shows love through kind words and gestures, like sharing memories and comforting Aria. Ask students to create "comfort cards" with pictures or kind words that they might give to someone who is feeling down. This helps them practice expressing empathy in a simple and supportive way.

Optionally, students can also talk about small actions that make others feel cared for, such as listening, offering a hug, or saying something kind.

Poetry Exploration

Structure, rhyme, and imagery in Grandpa John's poem

Students analyse Grandpa John's poem for its use of rhyme, metaphor, and imagery. Discuss how the poem expresses love, memory, and loss. Encourage students to reflect on how poetry can evoke emotions and convey deep meanings in a few words.

Activity: Students create their own short poems that convey a personal memory or emotion they have about a family member.

Memory Jars

Creating "Memory Jars"

Students create memory jars where they draw or write positive memories about family members or special moments. This activity encourages the sharing of memories and helps foster emotional literacy.

Activity: Once completed, students can share their memory jars with the class or a small group, discussing why each memory is important to them.

Cultural Exploration

Research how different cultures remember loved ones

Discuss how different cultures honour and remember those who have passed away. Link these practices to students' own family traditions and personal histories.

Extension: Students can create a cultural map showcasing various memorial traditions around the world.

Activity Ideas

Design a Book Cover:

Students redesign the book cover for *Remembering Grandpa*, focusing on its themes of memory, love, and family. Encourage students to incorporate visual elements that reflect the tone and mood of the story.

Memory Wall:

Create a wall in the classroom where students can post photos, drawings, or objects that represent family memories and connections, promoting discussion and fostering a sense of shared experience.

Family History Project:

Students interview family members (e.g., parents or grandparents) to learn about their family's history, and create a presentation or artwork to share with the class.

Conclusion

Remembering Grandpa offers a gentle yet profound opportunity for young readers to explore the themes of love, memory, and loss. By engaging with the narrative and participating in reflective and creative activities, students not only deepen their emotional literacy but also connect with the broader themes of intergenerational relationships and personal identity. The book serves as a valuable tool for fostering empathy, understanding, and critical thinking in the classroom.

About the Authors:

Kelly-Anne Norman has always had a passion for reading. Growing up, she was usually found in the school library reading fantasy novels. Kelly-Anne is passionate about promoting a love of reading to children of all ages, believing that books have the power to change lives. She lives in Brisbane, Australia with her husband, five children and puppy, Mia.

June Mac began writing as a child. Lost within her imagination, she was transported to magical, far-off places, discovering later that she could express these dreams in writing. Today, June shares her love of reading, writing and magical worlds with her husband and two daughters, hoping to inspire others to do the same.

About the Illustrator:

Zafouko Yamamoto was born in Thessaloniki , Greece where she studied architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Using the alias Zafouko Yamamoto, her work has been published throughout the world. She lives with her cat and dog, loves walks in nature, coffee and animals.