

To Grandmother's House We Go!

• Keep 'em Reading •

by | Karen Larsen

Grades
K-2



Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children.

~ Alex Haley

Grandparents are the memory keepers of a family. They are a link to the past and can provide guidance for the future.

In this activity, students practice note taking and interviewing skills while interacting with a grandparent or other older adult. (Note: If your students do not have access to a grandparent or other special older adult, ask your fellow teachers if they have a parent that would be willing to be interviewed for the following activity.) Before beginning this activity with your students, invite an older adult who is special to you to join the class and model how to conduct an interview and take notes.

When they are ready to get started, students can contact their interview subjects in person, over the phone, or by e-mail. Many of today's grandparents are tech-savvy, and that makes it easier than ever to connect with them. Skype (www.skype.com) is another option that can bring grandparents who live far away right into the home for a face-to-face visit.

The questions listed on the interview sheet on page 3 are designed to be story starters for both the grandparent and the grandchild, and will almost certainly lead to additional topics. Students can pick and choose which questions to ask, and even make up their own.

After the interviews are conducted, students can use the information to create a book, make a timeline, or even create a Glogster about their grandparent (<http://edu.glogster.com/>), where they can pull in pictures and video links to share their information. These interviews and subsequent projects are sure to become treasured heirlooms for the whole family—including the interviewees. Even though some grandparents may not live close enough for daily interaction with their grandchildren, this activity gives them the opportunity to create memories and bond in a meaningful way.

Web Resources about Grandparents

- **Cyberparent.com**, www.cyberparent.com/gran
Advice, newsletters, and activities for grandparents on the Web.
- **Grandparents.com**, www.grandparents.com
Great resources for grandparents including activities, recipes, advice, and more.
- **National Grandparents Day resources**, www.grandparents-day.com/

Books about Grandparents

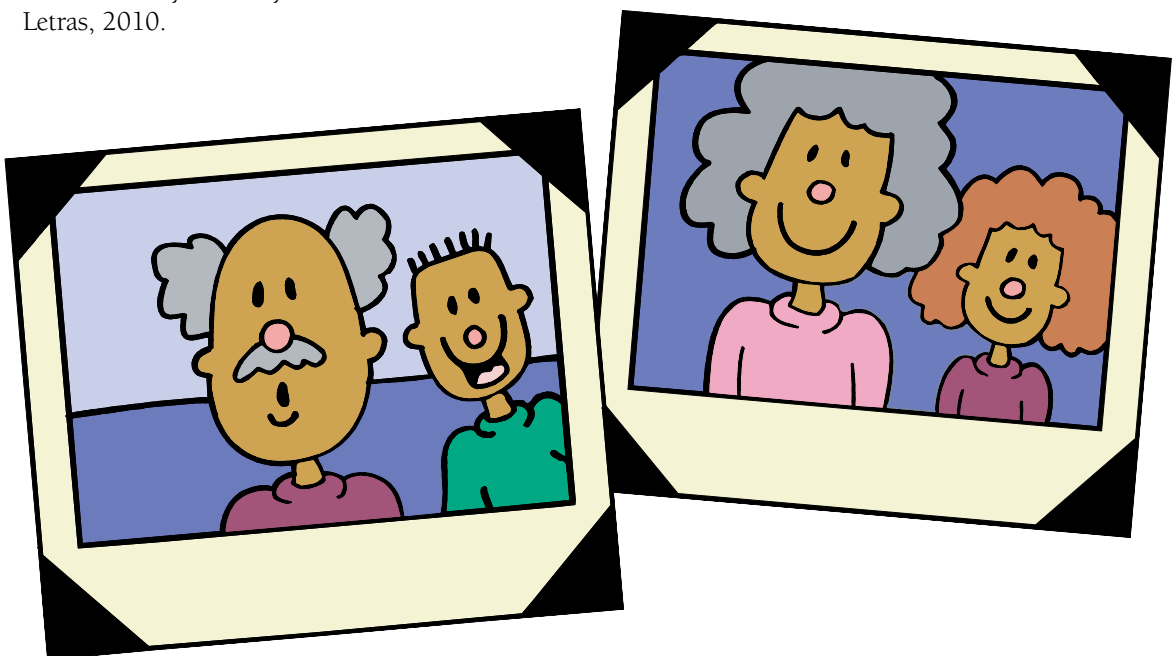
- *40 Uses for a Grandpa* by Harriet Ziefert. Blue Apple Books, 2005.
- *41 Uses for a Grandma* by Harriet Ziefert. Blue Apple Books. April 7, 2005.

Keep 'em Reading

- *Abuela* by Arthur Dorros. Puffin, 1997.
- *A Walk With Grandpa* by Sharon Soloman. Raven Tree Press, 2010.
- *Finding Grandpa Everywhere: A Young Child Discovers Memories of a Grandparent* by John Hodge. Centering Corporation, 1998.
- *Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother* by Lois Wyse. Harper Paperbacks, 1990.
- *Grandfathers are Like Gold* by Janet Lanese. Fireside, 2000.
- *Grandma Comes to Stay (First Experiences)* by Ifeoma Onyefulu. Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2010.
- *Grandmothers are like Snowflakes...No Two are Alike: Words of Wisdom, Gentle Advice, & Hilarious Observations* by Janet Lanese. Dell, 1996.
- *Grandparents Are Special* by Lucy Mead. Gramercy, 2004.
- *Grandparent's Day* by Nikki Tate and Benoit Laverdiere. Annick Press, 2004.
- *Grandparents* by Roser Capdevila. Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 2003.
- *Little Critter: Grandma, Grandpa, and Me* by Mercer Mayer. HarperFestival, 2007.
- *Just Grandparents: When a Child is Born, So are the Grandparents* by Bonnie Louise Kuchler. Willow Creek Press, 2004.
- *My Grandparents / Mis abuelos (My Family / Mi Familia)* by Thessaly Catt. Editorial Buenas Letras, 2010.
- *That's What Grandparents are For* by Arlene Uslander and Freddie Levin. Peel Productions, 2001.
- *The Gifts of Being Grand* by Marianne Richmond. Marianne Richmond Studios, 2003.
- *The Grandpas' Book* by John Gribbl and *The Grandmas' Book* by Alison Maloney (The Best of Everything Series). Scholastic, 2010.
- *The Long Distance Grandparenting: Connecting With Your Grandchildren from Afar* by Wilma Willis Gore. Linden Publishing, 2007.
- *The Ultimate Guide to Grandmas & Grandpas!* by Sally Lloyd-Jones. HarperCollins, 2008.
- *What Grandmas Do Best What Grandpas Do Best* by Laura Numeroff. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2000.

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Interview Sheet

My Name: _____ Name of the person I am interviewing: _____

Date: _____ Location: _____

From the interviewee's point of view...	From the student's point of view...
When _____ went to school, here is what it was like:	This is what it is like when I go to school:
_____ 's favorite foods are:	My favorite foods are:
When _____ was a child, some of his or her favorite activities were:	Some of my favorite activities are:
Something _____ is really good at is:	Something I am really good at is:
Something _____ has to work hard at is:	Something I have to work hard at is:
A special memory _____ has is:	A special memory I have is:
Some of the important events going on in the world when _____ was a child were:	Some of the important events going on in the world now are:
One piece of advice _____ would like to give me is:	One piece of advice I would give _____ is:
The things that are the most important to _____ are:	The things that are the most important to me are:
One thing _____ admires about me is:	One thing I admire about _____ is: