Noting that early children's literature plays a major role in the development of children's attitudes, this annotated bibliography lists over 100 early childhood picture books which contain positive portrayals of older adults. The books selected portray aging as a natural and lifelong process of growing and developing; present similarities between old and young, as well as show young and old enjoying each other and learning from each other; and view older people as valuable and contributing members of society. Each annotation provides a brief summary of the story and the aging concept illustrated, and indicates grade level, publisher, and cost. The list does not include books that deal extensively with illness, disability, and death, since such topics are not necessarily synonymous with aging. (SR)
Non-Ageist Picture Books
for Young Readers

An Annotated Bibliography
for Preschool-Primary Level

by

Dr. Sandra L. McGuire, Director
Kids Are Tomorrow's Seniors [KATS Program]
Non-Ageist Picture Books

for Young Readers

An Annotated Bibliography
for Preschool-Primary Level

by
Dr. Sandra L. McGuire

INTRODUCTION

Early children’s literature plays a major role in the development of attitudes. This annotated bibliography lists early children’s literature that contains positive portrayals of older adults. Books were selected that portray aging as a natural and lifelong process of growing and developing, present similarities between young and old, show young and old enjoying each other and learning from each other, and view older adults as valuable and contributing members of society. Books have not been included that deal extensively with illness, disability and death, since these topics are not synonymous with aging.

All books should be reviewed by the parent or teacher for appropriateness prior to use. If the reading level of a book is beyond that of the child, the parent or teacher may wish to "talk through" the story. Even more effective might be to have an older person read the book with the child. Whether the children read the books themselves, or have the books read to them, the stories can be the points of departure for discussions about growing up and growing older.

An effort has been made to make the bibliography as up-to-date as possible. Only books currently in print have been listed. Librarians can help locate out-of-print books, some of which are excellent literature for children. Both ISBN numbers and prices have been included to facilitate ordering books, but prices are subject to change. When two prices are listed, the first price is for the hardbound edition and the second for the paperback edition.

We hope both adults and children will enjoy the books listed, and that they will make a significant contribution to developing positive attitudes about aging and older people. Books that are favorites of the author are asterisked.
Ackerman, Karen (1988). *Song and Dance Man.*
New York: Knopf. (PS-2: Picture Book) $12.95*
[ISBN: 0-394-89330-1]
Grandfather and the grandchildren go up to the attic where he has a trunk full of mementos from his vaudeville days. They all dress up and put on a show. Grandfather sings and dances and a good time is had by all. This book portrays older people as enjoyable and interesting. [Caldecott Medal Award]

Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing Company. (PS-3: A Little Golden Book) $.99*
Bert and Ernie of Sesame Street decide to explore the attic. They find family history in the attic—such as Great-aunt Ernestine’s travel trunk, great-grandfather’s mountain jacket and toys from when great-grandfather was young. This book helps give children a sense of history, ancestry and family. It readily can lead into a discussion of older family members and friends, as well as growing up and growing older.

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press. (PS-3: Picture Book) $5.95
Grandmother Poppy is a kind woman who enjoys life. She is a friend the children in the neighborhood, and has tea parties for the children with hot bread and strawberry jam. This book shows an older person as a contributing member of the community and how old and young can enjoy each other. Aspects of religious life, such as grandmother reading from her Bible, are shown.

New York: Greenwillow. (1-3: Illustrated) $11.95*
Every summer Stina visits her grandfather in his house by the sea and goes treasure hunting. They get up early each day, check grandfather’s fishing nets, cook meals and do many enjoyable things together. One night a storm comes and grandfather helps Stina to enjoy and learn from the storm. This book portrays the elderly as intelligent, and as valuable members of society. It shows old and young enjoying each other and learning from each other.

New York: Philomel Books. (1-3: Illustrated) $11.95
[ISBN 0-399-21283-3]
A Native American named Chip, his two older brothers and a sister live with their grandmother Nuni in the forest. Chip also has animal “brothers”—beaver, bear and moose. When Chip’s sister Bright Star becomes ill, he journeys to find Wise Raven, the old medicine man. Chip’s grandmother warns him that the journey is dangerous, but with the help of his
animal brothers he makes it safely. The story portrays older people as wise, respected, independent, and an integral part of community and family life.

Berenstain, Stan & Jan (1986). *The Berenstain Bears and the Week at Grandma's.*

When a brother and sister bear find out that they are going to spend a week with their grandparents they wonder what they will do. They end up having a wonderful time. This book can be used to help show children that older people can be fun to be with and have much in common with children.

New York: Simon & Schuster. (PS-1: Picture Book) $8.95*
[ISBN 0-671-64640-0]

Philip's grandfather could make many things out of wood with his carpenter tools. Grandfather shows Philip how to use each one of the tools, teaches him about different kinds of wood, and together they build a sled. Shows the grandfather as capable, skillful and knowledgeable. Illustrates old and young enjoying each other and learning from each other.

Honesdale, PA: Caroline House. (PS-2: Picture Book) $14.95*
[ISBN 1-878093-21-5]

Rakhi lives in the Himalayan foothills of India with her grandfather. She buys cherries at a bazaar and brings them home. Grandfather has a garden and suggests that she plant one of the cherry seeds. The seed encounters many problems as it grows into a tree. We watch the tree grow older and we watch Rakhi grow older too. One year the tree is full of beautiful blossoms and cherries. Rakhi is now a young woman. She and her grandfather sit in the silence of the evening under the tree and watch the stars come out. "Just one small seed," Rakhi said--"How it changed!" "Just like you," her grandfather replied. This story shows aging as a natural and lifelong process. The grandfather is shown as wise, and a valued member of the family.

[ISBN 0-688-10338-3]

Mandy is a young girl who is deaf. She and her grandmother do many things together. They bake, dance and take walks together. Grandmother uses sign language with Mandy. When grandmother's cherished silver pin is lost it is Mandy who finds it for her. Shows a reciprocal relationship of loving and caring.
New York: Scholastic. (PS-1: Picture Book) $12.95*

Each year four cousins go together to visit their grandmother in the country. It is an enjoyable visit. Nana has tree swings and they do many things. Something they do every visit is play "the watching game" and watch for the fox that lives at the edge of Nana’s woods. The story shows a capable, independent grandmother who is loved by her grandchildren.

New York: Harper & Row. (PS-1: Picture Book) $12.95*

A great-grandmother shares memories of her childhood with Rosie, her great-granddaughter. She tells Rosie about when she was little and lived in another country on a hill near the sea. She tells of the ships, the fog, the seagulls, and a beautiful seashell that she once found. At the end of the story great-grandmother goes into her black trunk and gives Rosie her treasured seashell. A good intergenerational story with sharing and family history.

New York: Greenwillow. (PS-3: Picture Book) $10.25*
[ISBN 0-688-05/81-0]

Elizabeth made grandmother gifts for her birthday, and her brother Edward gave her a poem he had written. Elizabeth’s and Edward’s gifts are based on things grandmother liked and memories of times with grandmother. This book shows a loving, caring relationship with old and young enjoying one another.

Bryan Ashley (1989). *Artie Knows Your Name.*
New York: Atheneum. (2-3: Illustrated) $13.95
[ISBN 0-689-31578-3]

Upsilimana Tumpalerado lives with his grandmother in the West Indies. He is challenged by his grandmother to find out her real name, and he succeeds. The grandmother is portrayed as capable and a contributing member of society. The story is based on West Indian folklore.

Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press. (PS-1: Picture Book) $4.95*
[ISBN 1-56402-100-9]

A large-print story told by a child about a wonderful grandmother. Grandmother knows all about nature and always seems to have what you need. Grandmother is portrayed as active, sensitive and capable.
Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press. (PS-1: Picture Book) $4.95*
[ISBN 1-56402-099-1]

A large-print story told by a child about an amazing grandfather. Grandpa makes flower arrangements, dances, and has a great motorcycle. He is a lot of fun, and portrayed in nontraditional activities.

Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing. (PS-3: A Little Golden Book) $ .99

This book talks about plants, animals and people changing and growing. It provides an opportunity for children to take a look at growth and development throughout life.


A sister and brother spend a vacation with their fun loving and unconventional grandmother. Grandma Mag wears sneakers, can make a kite and thinks the cemetery is a peaceful place to have a picnic. She is a grandmother full of spunk and humor.

New York: Greenwillow. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.95*

Grandpa has been Annie’s pen pal since the day she was born. The book shares letters between Annie, her mother and her grandpa. Annie and her mother save the cards and letters, and one day when Annie takes all 86 cards of them to share at school for Show-and-Tell. This is a delightful book. Having a grandparent or older person for a pen pal is something that the young reader may want to do--it is a great idea and a way to link generations.

New York: Greenwillow. (PS-2: Picture Book) $12.95*
[ISBN 0-688-08816-3]

Grandpa likes to work in his garden and Sarah likes to help. The garden grows beautifully. One day grandma invites Sarah to a special lunch--one that has come from the garden. Grandpa and grandma are portrayed as independent, active and capable. Shows old and young enjoying each other and doing things together.
New York: Bradbury Press. (PS-2: Picture Book) $12.95
[ISBN 0-02-717820-X]

Grandfather and little Louie change their roles when they change their shoes, much to their own amusement, but much to grandmother's consternation.

New York: Orchard Books. (PS-3: Picture Book) $12.95
[ISBN 0-531-08350-0]

Sam is a young rhinoceros. Great-uncle Felix comes to visit and he praises Sam's invention. He shows him love and understanding. They share memories, and Uncle Felix teaches Sam how to use the "champion yo-yo" that had been Sam's mother's.

New York: Bradbury. (1-3: Illustrated) $14.95*
[ISBN 0-02-718135-9]

This story is based on the real life adventures of Feodosia Belevtsov who was born in prerevolutionary Russia in 1907. She survived the Russian Revolution and World War II and eventually came to America with her family. The reader is introduced to the grandmother as a young girl and travels through her life to present as she tells her story to her granddaughter. Well-written text that introduces the reader to some interesting events in history, illustrates family history, and shows aging as a natural and lifelong process.

New York: Random House. (PS: Picture Book) $2.95

A pocket-size, wipe clean book that tells the story of a young child's visit to grandma's house. It tells of the things the child does every Tuesday on these visits such as watering flowers, feeding birds, and folding laundry. Shows old and young enjoying each other.

New York: Puffin Books. (PS-3 Picture Book) $13.95/$4.95*

When Alice was a little girl she helped her grandfather who was an artist. She shared with her grandfather that when she grew up she wanted to go to faraway places and live beside the sea. Her grandfather said that there was one more thing she must do: "You must do something to make the world more beautiful." When Alice grew up and became Miss Rumphius she readily accomplished the first two goals. How she accomplished the third makes the story interesting and heartwarming. At the end of the book Miss Rumphius is an older woman. She leaves the young children in the story, as well as the young reader, with the same thought her grandfather had given her many years ago: "You must do something to make the world more beautiful." A sensitive portrayal of age, aging and older people. [Winner of the American Book Award]
New York: Greenwillow. (PS-2: Picture Book) $13.95*

Crews tells the story of childhood visits to his grandmother "Bigmama." Every summer this black family traveled to see grandparents and relatives in the country. These visits were greatly enjoyed. It is a story of family relations, activities and treasured memories. The story shows the grandparents as valued, loved, and contributing members of the family. Beautifully illustrated.

New York: Bradbury. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.95*
[ISBN 0-02-728685-1]

Tory loves to see Taylor, her neighbor, at his farm. She works with him at his woodshop, and helps him feed the goats and fill the bird feeders. They complete a weathervane they have been working on and Taylor comments: "We make a great team." Portrays the Taylor as independent and capable. Shows a reciprocal relationship of sharing, learning and caring.

New York: Holiday House. (PS-3: Picture Book) $5.95

Patrick goes to grandmother Twinkle’s for a kitten and learns everything there is to know about cats—their different breeds, care, and place in art, literature and history. This book portrays older people as knowledgeable.


An older women attempts to have pancakes for breakfast and is hindered by a scarcity of supplies and her pets. There are no words in this story. Young readers can easily follow the pictures, and can help to make up the story. The pictures portray the older woman as active, flexible and resourceful.

Di Fiori, Lawrence (1986). *To Grandmother’s House We Go.*
Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing Company. (PS-2: A First Little Golden Book) $.79

Cindy lives near her grandparent’s house. She and her dog, Cupcake, walk to their house for a visit and find her grandfather working in the yard and grandmother baking a pie. Grandmother gives the pie to Cindy to take home with her. This book shows older people as helpful, active and contributing members of the family.
**Dionetti, Michelle (1991).** *Coal Mine Peaches.*
New York: Orchard Books. (1-3: Picture Book) $14.95*
[ISBN 0-531-05948-0]

A story of family history that encompasses three generations of an Italian family. The author is the granddaughter of a master storyteller who entertained family and friends with his stories. The grandfather began telling stories when he was a boy and he worked in a coal mine with his brothers. He continued telling delightful stories with his grandchildren. Children see the main character age from a young boy to a grandfather. A story of many memories and good times. It is a story that can help children to get interested in their own family history. They see aging as a natural and lifelong process and older people as valued members of the family.

**Dorros, Arthur (1991).** *Abuela.*
New York: Dutton. (PS-2: Picture Book) $13.95*

Abuela means grandma in Spanish and Spanish words are used in an interesting fashion throughout the text. While taking a bus ride with her grandmother a young girl imagines that they are taken up into the sky and see a number of sights over New York City. Bright, colorful illustrations that children find quite fascinating. Shows old and young enjoying each other.

**Douglass, Barbara (1982).** *Good as New.*
New York: Lothrop. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.00/$3.95*

Grady's grandfather is known for his ability to fix just about anything. When a young cousin ruins Grady's prize teddy bear, Grandfather does a wonderful job of fixing it. He fixes it "Good as new!" Portrays the grandfather as intelligent, creative, and sensitive to the needs of the child. This book conveys a loving and positive relationship between the boy and his grandfather.

**Edwards, Patricia (1987).** *Chester and Uncle Willoughby.*
New York: Brown and Company. (1-3: Picture Book) $14.95

Chester likes to sit on the back porch and talk to Uncle Willoughby. He and Uncle Willoughby sing songs, tell stories, play games and talk. They enjoy each other and learn from each other.

**Falwell, Cathryn (1991).** *Nicky & Grandpa.*
New York: Clarion Books. (PS: Picture Book) $5.95

A preschool book with only a few words on each page. Nicky is an infant spending time with grandpa and seems to be having a very good time. A contemporary portrayal of grandpa.
New York: Greenwillow. (PS-2: Picture Book) $13.95

Katie and her grandfather go fishing on Long Pond. Grandfather teaches her about fishing and about nature. Shows old and young enjoying each other and learning from each other.

Niles, Illinois: Albert Whitman. (PS-2: Picture Book) $9.75*

A young girl enjoys visiting her grandmother in a tall apartment building in a big city. The grandmother demonstrates a wide range of behaviors—she works, goes to school, buys cookies at the bakery, and does some very interesting things with her granddaughter. The special things that the two do together make this a very enjoyable book.

New York: Puffin Books. (PS-1: Picture Book) $3.95
[ISBN 0-14-050522-9]

Coco and grandmother want to see each other. Each goes off to visit the other and arrives to find each other gone. They finally meet half-way between houses and eat apples together. Coco’s grandmother rides a motorcycle.

New York: Philomel Books. (1-3: Picture Book) $13.95/$5.95

Tamika is a young black girl who loves her grandfather very much. She especially loves his stories and their long “talk-walks.” One day Tamika sees her grandfather practicing a mean face for a play. She becomes afraid that someday grandfather will use this mean face on her and she will lose his love. She learns that, despite her grandfather’s many faces, his feelings for her will never change, and his love is something that she can always depend on. This picture book depicts the grandfather as healthy, active and vibrant, and illustrates a loving, caring relationship between grandchild and grandparent.

New York: Greenwillow. (PS-5: Picture Book) $11.95/$4.95

Janetta is a “city girl,” and her first visit to her grandfather’s farm was one of mixed emotions. At first she was not sure that she liked her granddaddy, his farm or the animals. She didn’t like the wasp’s nest under the roof, or the chickens that made scary noises, the mean-looking cat or the “giant” mule. He tells her stories and takes her fishing. She learns to love and understand the farm, the animals and her grandfather.
Hayes, Sheila (1974). *Where Did the Baby Go?*
Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing Company. (PS-2: A Little Golden Book) $0.99*

In this book a child sees a baby picture of himself and begins to think about the process of growing up. This book can be used to illustrate one of the beginning concepts in aging education: that aging is a natural and lifelong process of growth and development. Children can be encouraged to discuss how they see themselves as they get older.

Henkes, Kevin (1986). *Grandpa & Bo.*
New York: Greenwillow. (PS-3: Picture Book) $11.75*

Bo was staying the summer with grandpa. They played ball, worked in the garden, went fishing, listened to grandpa's old records, made a willow basket, went on walks, and told stories. Bo and grandpa are a loving pair who enjoy each other, learn from each other, and do things for each other. They celebrate an early Christmas together before Bo has to leave for home.

New York: Viking. (PS-1: Picture Book) $12.95

A granddaughter asks her grandmother to tell her what things were like when she was a little girl. Children can be encouraged to ask older family members and friends the same thing. Creates a sense of family history, as well as growing up and growing older.

New York: MacMillan. (PS-3: Picture Book) $11.95/$3.95*

Sadie and her brother take turns going with their grandfather on Sunday for special early morning walks together. Sadie delights in this time her grandfather. They talk about the "old country," stop at a bake shop and sip cocoa. Later, as others rise from their beds they notice the two very different size sets of tracks left by the "crack-of-dawn" walkers.

Hest, Amy (1986). *The Purple Coat.*
New York: Four Winds. (1-3: Picture Book) $13.95*
[ISBN 0-02-743640-3]

Every autumn Gabrielle gets a new navy blue coat with gold buttons. She and her mother take the train to New York to grandpa's tailor shop where grandpa makes her the new coat. This year Gabrielle wants a purple coat, but her mother still wants her to have a blue one. Grandfather is ingenious! He loves both Gabrielle and her mother and wants to see them both pleased. He makes a reversible coat with blue on one side and purple on the other. Everyone is happy with the reversible coat! *The Purple Coat* shows an older adult as employed and creative.
Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing Company. (PS-3: A Big Little Golden Book) $1.39

Mrs. Fizz and her grandson go shopping and end up with a jacket mix-up. Mrs Fizz figures out how to get the right jacket back. This book shows older persons as intelligent and resourceful.

Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books. (PS-2: Picture Book) $12.95/$5.95*

Grandfather and Jake go fishing together. Jake has a long blue scarf that helps to keep him warm. Grandfather liked Jake’s scarf and decides to ask Great Aunt Maude to knit him one in red. Aunt Maude is great at farming and cleaning fish but said she couldn’t knit a scarf. Grandfather can’t find anyone to knit him a scarf, and finally asks Jake where he got his. Much to grandfather’s amazement Jake says that he knit it himself. Grandfather learns to knit, knits himself a scarf, and enjoys knitting so much he knits things for others in the family. He and Jake knit together. Portrays the grandfather as independent, active and creative, and engaged in a nontraditional activity. Interesting and fun reading.

New York: Clarion Books. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.95/$4.95

One night Lassen and her four cousins spend the night at grandmother’s house. They all love her and grandma loves the kids. She has a box full of toys and a drawer full of clothes for them to play with. However, the kids get out of hand and grandmother, with due cause, gets grumpy. The book ends with the children knowing that even though grandma got grumpy she loves them. Most children would agree that in the same situation they would get grumpy as well. This book can be used to help show children how old and young are similar and share the same types of feelings.

New York: Dial. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.95*

Grace is a young black girl who loved acting out the parts in stories. Grace’s grandmother told her many stories from memory. Grace’s class at school plans to do the play Peter Pan and Grace wants to try out for the part of Peter Pan. Some of her classmates do not give her much encouragement, but her grandmother does. Nana told her that you can be anything you want if you put your mind to it. With the support and help of her grandmother Grace prepared to audition for the part. When the auditions came there was no doubt who would be Peter Pan--everyone in the class voted for Grace. This book portrays the grandmother as capable, sensitive, and an integral part of the family. It shows how old and young can enjoy each other and learn from each other. [Waldenbooks Best Children’s Book Award].
Horlacher, Bill & Kathy (1987). *I'm Glad I'm Your Grandma.*  

Horlacher, Bill & Kathy (1986). *I'm Glad I'm Your Grandpa.*  

These two books illustrate love and acceptance between generations, as well as showing minority group representation of older people.

Howard, Elizabeth (1991). *Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later).*  
New York: Clarion. (PS-2: Picture Book) $14.95*  

On Sunday afternoons Sarah and her sister, Susan, go to see Great-great aunt Flossie. Aunt Flossie greets them at the door and offers them tea, cookies, and crab cakes later. They love Aunt Flossie's house. It is crowded full with things they enjoy, and they especially love her hats. Aunt Flossie tells the girls the stories of her hats. This book shows an older person as an important part of the family, and illustrates how old and young can enjoy each other and learn from each other. Beautifully illustrated.

[ISBN 0-06-022700-1]

Jenny loves her visits with her grandparents. When she goes to visit them she is told by her parents that grandma and grandpa want peace, quiet and tranquility. However, Jenny knows differently—they are not quiet and they are very active. No one is better at jumping and stomping than grandfather—especially when he dances with Jenny in her red pajamas. Grandmother is a wonderful cook and knows more about cats than anyone. When grandfather tucks her into bed he tells Jenny: "Oh what a beautiful, lovely, noisy day." Older people are portrayed as active and vibrant.

New York: Orchard Books. (PS-2: Picture Book) $14.95  
[ISBN 0-531-05884-0]

A young boy shares enjoyable times with his grandfather and talks about what they will do "When I am old with you." Although this is not possible, the story is full of love and family history. It can help children to see that they too will someday be old, and helps them to think of activities they would like to do when they are older.
Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing. (PS-2: A First Little Golden Book) $ .99

Her parents go on vacation and Margaret is taken care of by her grandparents. Grandpa plays the harmonica for them, they go shopping, rake leaves, visit the park, go to the movies, and entertain Margaret's friends. Illustrates old and young enjoying one another.

New York: Doubleday. (PS-3: Picture Book) $4.95*

Motivated by a birthday gift a 72-year-old woman begins to paint. This delightful book illustrates the creativity of older people.

New York: Hastings. (PS-3: Picture Book) $9.95
[ISBN 0-8038-5396-3]

This book discusses how people and animals age and grow. When using it with younger children the discussion of animal lifespan may be too complicated, and the reader may want to stay more directly with the sections on human growth and development.

Niles, Illinois: Albert Whitman. (1-3: Picture Book) $12.95

As Margey helps her grandfather clean and lock up his barber shop for the last time she feels the pain of separation that comes with retirement almost as much as he does. She helps grandfather to see the positive aspects of retirement--like more time for them together. Although this book does not portray retirement in a very positive way, it does open up the topic of retirement.

New York: Joy Street Books. (PS-3: Picture Book) $12.95

It is Christmas and Jenny and Joanna are ready to take their first airplane trip to New York city with grandmother. She takes them to the airport in a taxi. The girls ask to go on a horse and carriage ride through Central Park and during the ride they sing "Jingle Bells." The carriage loses its driver to a low-hanging tree branch and grandmother takes the reins and finishes the carriage ride. An amusing and entertaining story for young readers that shows an energetic, capable woman who enjoys her grandchildren.
Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing. (PS-2: A Little Golden Book) $ .99*

Sam and Sally Smith lived with their parents in a big apartment building in the city. Every summer it was a special treat to visit their grandparents in the country. Although her grandparents are home all day they are very busy. They tend a garden, do carpentry work, go shopping, share memories and play with the children. The children especially like visiting the attic where they can see things like their father's old baseball glove and a locket with a picture of grandma when she was a girl.

Boston: Little. (PS-3: Picture Book) $14.95*

A young boy describes his close relationship with his grandfather whom he calls: Poppy, Pop, Grandpa, and Pops. The entire story is narrated through black and white photographs. This is the story of a loving and sharing relationship between grandparent and grandchild. Young readers have fun trying to remember the four names the boy has for his grandfather and the activities they enjoy together.

New York: MacMillan. (1-3: Illustrated) $13.95*

All her life Elzibah Swan had lived in the same house on Boston's Beacon Hill. Now she shares the house with her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Fortly. She keeps active and busy: going to the library and symphony concerts, gardening, and enjoying her grandchildren. Throughout the book there are letters from Elzibah to her grandchildren. On her seventy-fifth birthday she wants to do something "new," and decides to learn how to swim. Elzibah takes swimming lessons, snorkeling and water ballet. She loves swimming so much that she designs a wooden house to be built on the seashore. Her friend, Mr. Fortly, and his two grandsons dig the foundation for the house. Elzibah calls her new house by the sea "Sea Swan." Sea Swan is a story that integrates many generations into one text. It illustrates how people can enjoy and learn throughout life.

New York: Franklin Watts. (3: Illustrated) $9.90
[ISBN 0-531-10291-1]

This book discusses a boy's friendships with older people and illustrates how to bridge the gap between generations.
Levinson, Rikki (1986). *I Go With My Family To Grandma's.*
New York: E.P. Dutton. (PS-3: Picture Book) $11.95/$3.95*

Around the turn of the century five New York cousins go to visit grandma. They all take different ways to get there. Grandma's house is full of joy and loving times. There are few words in this book and children can be asked to help explain the story through the excellent, intergenerational pictures. This book portrays old and young enjoying and caring for each other.


Children are often familiar with the Star Wars saga. Although the dialogue may not keep the interest of the younger children, the story can be told through the pictures. One of the heroes is an older man named Obi-Wan Kenobi. Obi-Wan is portrayed as a person of great integrity—a role model who is sensitive, intelligent, loyal, and resourceful. Children generally like and enjoy Obi-Wan. The story portrays an older person as an honored, valuable and contributing member of society.

New York: Henry Holt. (3: Picture Book) $14.95

A blind Native American boy sits by the fire with his grandfather. He asks him once again to tell him the story of his life and birth. Each time the story has been told the grandfather has tied a knot in the "counting rope." Through the telling of the story the grandfather has helped the boy become strong, capable, and independent in spite of his blindness. This wise grandfather has had a profound and positive influence on the boy's life.

New York: Orchard Books. (PS-1: Picture Book) $14.95

Washburn is an older man who always tries to look on the bright side of things. He is a fine fiddler and whittler. He can whittle a fiddle out of a log or a spider out of a stick of wood. During the story his cow, pigs and chickens run off and other mishaps occur. He makes the best of these what has happened, and even sings songs and fiddles about his mishaps. Amazingly enough, everything gets back to normal. Young child delight in hearing all the things that happened to Washburn. Shows an active, capable older person with a positive outlook on life.
Mathieu, Joe (1981). *The Olden Days.*
New York: Random House. (1-3: Please Read to Me) $4.99/$1.95

This book serves as a source of history as it integrates older people into the pictures. When reading this book to the children point out the older people in the story such as the: blacksmith, carpenter, weaver, medicine maker, and teacher.

Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing. (PS-1: Golden Look-Look Book) $1.95

This is an animal story featuring a grandmother and grandson who spend a day at the beach. They do fun things together and have an enjoyable day.

Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing. (PS-1: Golden Look-Look Book) $2.50

This book is a look at growing up and growing older. It can lead into discussion about aging as a natural and lifelong process. It also allows the children to look at some of the things that they would like to do when they are older.

Austin, Texas: Texas Graphic Interests. (1-3: Illustrated) $5.95*
[ISBN 0-9150101-3]

This is the true story of Ila Loetscher known as "The Turtle Lady." Mrs. Loetscher lives on South Padre Island in Texas and takes care of sick and injured sea turtles. She also teaches people about sea turtles. Sea turtles are an endangered species and she has helped to save them from extinction. Mrs. Loetscher is a legend in her own time. Her life helps to show children that older people can be vital and contributing members of society.

New York: Lothrup. (PS-3: Picture Book) $14.95*

Kim is going to spend the week after Christmas at grandma's house and she is very excited about it. She meets Kim at the airport and they drive in grandma's truck. Kim loves having grandma read her stories. Grandma lets Kim use ice skates that were Kim's mother's when she was a little girl. Kim and grandma play in the snow, feed birds by hanging "peanut butter pine cones" in the trees, and visit a small, budding plum tree that the two of them planted together. Grandma says that these buds are her "promises" -- the promise of summer when Kim will come again. This book portrays a reciprocal relationship of doing and caring and has an excellent intergenerational text.
New York: Lothrup. (PS-2: Picture Book) $14.95

Kim spends summers at her grandmother’s country home and the two have a wonderful time together. They pick strawberries and wait for the first and last plums of the season. Grandma braids Kim’s hair and they celebrate half-birthdays together. The book illustrates a warm, reciprocal relationship and shows older people as active and interesting.

Chicago: Children's Press. (PS-2: Picture Book) $2.95
[ISBN 0-516-42072-0]

When others are too busy grandmother is there to listen. This book illustrates a reciprocal relationship of sharing and caring. *Listen to Me* includes multicultural representation of older people.

New York: Dutton. (PS-3: Picture Book) $9.95/$3.95

Timothy and Melinda anxiously anticipate their explorer grandmother’s arrival for Christmas as she rushes through various adventures to make it home in time. Some of these adventures include flying a plane. A grandmother involved in many nontraditional activities. Can lead into a discussion of what the children would like to do when they are older people.

New York: Dial Books. (PS-3: Picture Book) $3.95

A small girl tells about all the good times that she has during her weekly visits to her grandparents’ house. Illustrates a warm and loving relationship between grandparents and grandchildren.

New York: Little Simon. (PS-1: Picture Book) $3.50

This book looks at the different members in a family. There is one picture and one word on each page. The family members include grandmother and grandfather. This book can be used to begin a discussion of older people and their roles in the family.

New York: Derrydale Books. (2-3: Illustrated) $3.95
[ISBN 0527-64966-7]

Pip is a gnome-boy who lives in the forest with his family in the village of Rainbow’s End. One day Pip is bored and Granny Rumbletummy takes him to visit some of her best friends.
like badger and otter, and helps him to learn about the forest and see how interesting life can be. Granny is kind, loving and intelligent, and Pip learns from her.

New York: Dutton. (PS-2: Picture Book) $13.95

Grandfather talks to his grandson about when he was a little boy growing up in a mountain cabin. One time, he recalls, the stove went out and he had to get coals from the neighbors to restart it. Going to the "neighbors" meant going a long way across hills and through the woods. He helps the grandson learn about what life was like when he was young.

New York: Philomel Books. (PS-3: Picture Book) $14.95*
[ISBN 0-399-22231-6]

The author tells a story based on her family history. The books tells the story of a grandmother who helped her granddaughter overcome her fear of thunderstorms. When the grandmother senses that a storm is coming she announces it is "Thunder Cake" baking weather. To be a real Thunder Cake it needs to be in the oven before the storm comes. Grandmother and granddaughter go out to gather the ingredients and they make the cake. An independent, capable and enjoyable grandmother. The text is beautifully illustrated.

New York: Morrow Junior Books. (PS-1: Picture Book) $12.95
[ISBN 0-688-04551-0]

Four episodes demonstrate the imaginative games Grandpa Bear plays with Samantha and the affection between them.

Rice, Eve (1988). *Aren't You Coming Too?*
New York: Greenwillow. (PS-1: Picture Book) $11.95*

Everyone in the family has somewhere to go except Amy, but this changes when grandfather arrives. He helps Amy zip up her coat and off they go for a delightful visit to the animals in the park. Portrays an active and sensitive grandfather.

New York: Simon and Schuster. (PS-K: Picture Book) $4.95*

New York: Simon and Schuster. (PS-K: Picture Book) $4.95*
[ISBN 0-6717-4539-0]

These two books feature beautiful, up-to-date photographs of young children and their grandparents. There is one word per page, and each page shows the young children doing something with their grandparents such as cooking, crying, counting and hugging. The book
helps to illustrate how old and young are similar, enjoy each other and learn from one another.

New York: Bradbury. (1-3: Illustrated) $12.95

Jenny goes to visit her Great-aunts Abby and Clare. Daddy tells Jenny how he used to go visit his aunts when he was a boy. Aunt Abby takes Jenny up to the attic where the two of them find many things. There are books, dolls, and the Noah's Ark that the aunts played with when they were young girls. Jenny enjoys her visit to the attic and later finds out that Daddy had visited there too. Depicts aging as a natural and lifelong process and shows how old and young can enjoy each other and learn from each other.

New York: Franklin Watts. (PS-3: Picture Book) $12.95*
[ISBN 0-531-05732-1]

A grandmother shares her memories of three generations with her young granddaughter and the girls learns about her family. The grandmother makes a lace-edged handkerchief for the granddaughter made with the same lace that had decorated her christening robe, wedding gown and her daughter's crib. The book portrays special, loving gifts from one generation to another.

Racine, Wisconsin: Western Publishing Company. (K-3: A Little Golden Book) $.99

In this book grandmother relates factual and interesting information about cats. Grandmother is portrayed as an intelligent and interesting person.

Rylant, Cynthia (1982). *When I Was Young In The Mountains.*
New York: Dutton. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.95/$3.95*

The story is a reminiscence of the pleasures of childhood in the Appalachian Mountains. Although people who are older are not main characters, they are seen in a variety of roles and are integrated into family and community life throughout the text. Children can be asked to discuss what they saw the older people in the story doing.

New York: Bradbury. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.95
[ISBN 0-02-777220-9]

The relatives come from Virginia to visit and have a wonderful time. Older people are integrated throughout the text. The book illustrates family relationships and allows discussion of generations. It shows older people in a variety of settings and situations.

This book shows the seasons of the year as reflected in the family garden. This is a large family and family members are portrayed in a variety of roles. Grandmother does a lot of the canning of garden products and is seen as contributing to family life.


Alice gets a dog "Bobo" for her birthday much to her grandmother's dismay. Alice and Bobo go to dog obedience school. Grandmother starts to like Bobo and surprises Alice when she helps Bobo win a blue ribbon at the dog show.


Katie visits her grandmother and sees the chair that was grandmother's when she was a little girl. She asks grandmother how she was able to fit in the chair, and grandmother tells her that she was little once too. They get out the family photo album and look at the pictures. Katie sees pictures of her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother with the chair when they were children. As they finish the photo album grandmother tells Katie it is time for her to have the chair. An excellent story about growing up, growing older and sharing intertwined with family history.


Contrasts daily events in a young girl’s life at her house and at her grandmother’s home. Grandmother’s house provides a wonderful time for the young girl, and it is obvious that they share a special love. The illustrations are very contemporary and not age stereotypic.


Max has a baby-sitter when his parents are at work, but he is so unhappy with her that his parents hire a new sitter. The family employees a new sitter, Jean. Jean is an older woman who takes care of a number of young children. She reads to the children and they make puppets of paper-maché and gifts for their parents. Max likes having Jean as a sitter. In the role of child-care provider, Jean is shown to be a capable, loving, trustworthy person. This book also shows the children an older adult who is working.
Stevenson, James (1986). *There's Nothing To Do!*  
New York: Greenwillow. (PS-3: Picture Book) $11.75  
[ISBN 0-688-04698-3]  
Mary Ann and Louie tell their grandfather how bored they are, and he tells them a very "unboring" story about he and his brother Wainwright visiting their grandparents' farm when Wainwright was a baby. Children find the text amusing and the grandfather a very interesting storyteller.

New York: Greenwillow. (PS-3: Picture Book) $12.88/$3.95  
Grandfather tells Mary Ann and Louie about the times when he, as a child, was afraid at bedtime. This book illustrates similarity in feelings between the young and old.

New York: Lothrop. (PS-3: Picture Book) $11.95  
Emma Wong is of Chinese heritage. Her grandfather has just arrived from China. Grandfather likes to tell Chinese dragon myths. The story focuses on the relationship between Emma and her grandfather and the understanding that can grow between young and old.

Thomas and his grandfather are together during a thunderstorm and the lights go off. Grandfather tells Thomas a story about when he was young. During the storm Thomas discovers amazing things, such as the fact that he can hear better in the dark. The story portrays a wise and sensitive grandfather and shows old and young enjoying and learning from each other.

New York: Greenwillow. (K-3: Picture Book) $12.50  
Poems from many countries and various cultural and ethnic groups about grandparents.

Thomson, Pat (1988). *Can You Hear Me, Granddad?*  
New York: Dell. (PS-3: Picture Book) $2.50*  
Whenever the young granddaughter talks to her grandfather as they go around the zoo, he pretends not to hear well and mixes up her words. A good time is had by all. Children sometimes find the mixed-up words funny.
New York: Dutton. (PS-1: Picture Book) $11.95
[ISBN 0-525-44526-9]

Punky loved to visit her grandparents. The house was full of hiding places, she raked leaves with Grampy, and was read bedtime stories. Shows old and young enjoying each other.

New York: Doubleday. (2-3: Picture Book) $12.95*
[ISBN 0-385-41222-3]

Grandma Rose does a lot of different things. She wears high-top sneakers and tap dances. She also makes soup that she takes around to many people. One day, when Isabel’s mother is ill Grandma Rose comes over to help out and takes Isabel on her soup deliveries with her. Isabel soon sees that as grandma shares her soup with people they share things with her too. Isabel gets involved in the sharing and a good time is had by all. An interesting and rather contemporary grandmother.

New York: Dutton. (PS-3: Picture Book) $11.95/$3.95

Kevin and his friend talk about their grandmothers. Kevin’s grandmother likes MAD magazine, rides a Honda 50, arm wrestles, practices yoga and judo, belongs to mountain-climbing/scuba diving/karate clubs, fixes her own roof, goes skydiving, takes her grandchildren on trips and makes peanut butter soup. His friend’s grandmother gives piano lessons, plays checkers with him, takes him to the ice cream parlor, belongs to bridge/garden/music clubs, keeps interesting scrapbooks, takes her grandchildren on trips, and volunteers her time. Both grandmothers are portrayed as interesting, contributing members of society, and both have positive, loving relationships with their grandchildren.

Williams, Vera (1982). *A Chair For My Mother.*
New York: Greenwillow. (K-3: Picture Book) $13.95/$7.95

A little girl, her mother and grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire. This is a story of three generations living and doing things together.

New York: Harper and Row. (PS-3: Picture Book) $11.70*
[ISBN 0-06-026583-3]

A young girl travels to New York with her parents to celebrate her grandmother’s birthday, but along the way loses the present she had made. She decides that the best birthday present is herself.
New York: Harper and Row. (PS-2: Picture Book) $4.95

A young male rabbit looks for a gift for his grandpa's birthday and he finally grows a plant for him. The book portrays a loving and caring relationship.

New York: Viking. (PS-2: Picture Book) $13.95*

This book was inspired by the afghan that the author's grandmother knitted for her more than 30 years ago. It tells the story of how every summer Sarah took a vacation to visit her grandmother. Grandmother loves to knit and decided to knit something special, an afghan, for Sarah. Sarah goes shopping with grandmother to choose the colors. When grandmother arrives to visit Sarah in the Fall the strips for the afghan are done, but not sewn together. The entire family sewed the strips together. Grandma embroidered: With Love from Grandma--November, 1955 in one corner. Shows intergenerational sharing and caring.

New York: Harper and Row. (PS-3: Picture Book) $13.95/$4.95*

William wanted a doll, but instead his father gave him a basketball and a train set. This did not make William want a doll any less. His grandmother gets him a doll so that when he grows up he will know how to be a father. Grandmother shows sensitivity, wisdom and understanding and helps to bridge the gap between generations.

New York: Puffin. (PS-2: Picture Book) $14.95/$3.95*

Hopefully children will all know an older person like the one in this book. She works in a garden, takes walks with her dog, gives out candy apples at Halloween, bakes cookies, and waves to the children as they pass by her house. She is a woman who makes others feel special, and is someone people always remember. The book illustrates how old and young can enjoy each other, do for each other and learn from each other.

**AUTHOR:** Dr. Sandra L. McGuire
Director
Kids Are Tomorrow's Seniors (KATS)
11008 Crosswind Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37922
(615) 966-8832