

Grandma's Gift

Man on the Moon



This book looks at the different ways memories can be shared. In the fiction title, a grandmother tells her grandson the story behind a small family carving. The non-fiction text relates one man's memories of *Apollo 11*'s mission to the moon.

Big Ideas

Using these two titles, your students can explore and make links between the following big ideas:

- Memories can be shared as oral history.
- Sharing memories helps people to understand the past and appreciate the experiences of others.

Fiction

Grandma's Gift

by Anna Mackenzie

Summary

Felipe's grandmother shares a box of family treasures with him, which prompts her to tell the story of a small carving she was given by her brother when she was young.

Features of the Text

- Strong relationships between characters
- Oral storytelling within a narrative text
- Emotive language and descriptions
- Theme of the value of sharing memories

Purpose

Grandma's Gift can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated non-fiction title;
- identifying themes;
- analysing complex relationships between characters.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Ask the students if they know any stories about their families that happened before they were born. Allow them to share their stories, or share one of your own.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 19 to write a thank-you letter to Grandma
- write a list of mementos to share with later generations, and justify their choices
- research a story or treasure in their family
- brainstorm alternative titles for the story
- write a story with the same theme in a different context.

Explain that a narrative will often have a theme or underlying message. The theme may be a big idea or a feeling that the author is trying to evoke. Ask the students to think about the theme of this story as they read.

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5.

- How do you know that the lost box is important to Grandma?
- What do you think is in the box?
- How does Felipe feel about his grandmother? How do you know?

The students can now read to the end of page 11. Ask them to think about the relationship between Felipe and his grandmother as they read.

- What did Felipe expect to find in the box? Why?
- Was this a good time for Grandma to tell this story? Why?

Ask the students to read to the end of the story, then discuss the theme. (Sharing memories is precious; Sharing stories helps people to understand the past and each other.)

- Which events in the story support the theme?

Discuss other ways that this theme could be written about, for example:

- a story about choosing between something that has monetary value and something that has sentimental value and the things that influence that choice;
- a recount of a funeral where people tell stories about the past.