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Introduction

Grandparents contains a variety of ideas and activities designed for use with year level 3-6 children. At its core are quality children's literature selections. For these books, activities are included which set the stage for reading, encourage the enjoyment of the book, and extend the concepts which were introduced in the books. In addition, the theme is integrated into the curriculum through activities in English (including daily writing suggestions), maths, science, study of society, art, music, and life skills (cooking and games). Hands-on and minds-on learning and cooperative group activities are woven throughout the unit.

The culminating activity provides directions for a Grandparents Day. This activity is designed to showcase the students' learning and help the children integrate what they have learned into a special day of fun for them to share with their grandparents or other special friends.

Although this book is addressed to children and their grandparents, some children may not have the opportunity to enjoy the grandparent experience. Some grandparents may live far away, some may no longer be living, and others may not be actively involved in the lives of their grandchildren. For these children, the ideas in books about grandparents and their grandchildren spending time together and sharing experiences may be particularly important. It will be necessary for the teacher to be sensitive to the feelings of these children in planning activities for the classroom. In instances where children are asked to do an activity with a grandparent, another family member, a family friend, or adult school friend may be involved in the activity instead of a grandparent.

This *Grandparents* thematic unit includes the following features:

- literature selections**—summaries of two children's books with related lessons (complete with reproducible pages) that integrate activities throughout the curriculum
- planning guides**—suggestions for sequencing lessons
- writing ideas**—daily suggestions as well as writing activities across the curriculum, including Big Books
- curriculum connections**—in English, maths, science, study of society, art, music, and life skills such as cooking and games
- bulletin board ideas**—suggestions and plans for student-created bulletin boards
- homework suggestions**—extending the unit to the students' homes
- group projects**—to encourage cooperative learning
- a culminating activity**—to require students to synthesise their learning and engage in activities that will be shared with others
- a bibliography**—suggestions of additional fiction and nonfiction materials to correlate with the theme

To keep this valuable resource intact so that it can be used year after year, you may wish to punch holes in the pages and store them in a binder.

The Web

Summary

Jenny loves to visit her great grandmother Violet-Anne. Not only does she discover the family stories but also the animal friends who help her great grandmother relive her memories of her past and keep her company in her large old house. As Jenny explores the house with her great grandmother, she discovers special memories and the rich history of her family. This book is a loving tribute to the special bond that exists between a grandparent and grandchild and demonstrates how much can be gained by reflecting on our heritage.

The outline below is a suggested five-day plan for using the various activities that are presented in this unit. These ideas can be adapted as needed to fit your own classroom situation.

Sample Plan

Day 1

- Read *The Web* using some of the Enjoying the Book activities. (page 7)
- Introduce the family card writing centre. (page 6)
- Begin Daily Writing Topics. (page 9)
- Start to prepare for Grandparents' Day. (page 63)

Day 2

- Read other books about older people and grandparents. (You may want to choose one from the bibliography on page 74)
- Compare the book to *The Web* using the chart on page 10.
- Continue the Daily Writing Topics. (page 9)

Day 3

- Teach the class an old-fashioned game. (page 62)
- Create a card or postcard to send to a grandparent. (pages 53 and 54)
- Discuss with the class things they know about spiders and stories they can tell. Complete the writing activities Spider Riddles and Spider Story (pages 14 and 15).

Day 4

- Prepare the Grandparent Puzzle. (page 55)
- Make up some songs to perform at Grandparents Day. (page 58)
- Use reference books to learn about spiders and insects. Complete the Venn Diagram (page 17)
- Continue the Daily Writing Topics. (page 9)

Day 5

- Finish the Extending the Book activities. (page 8)
- Continue the Daily Writing Topics. (page 9)
- Finish preparations for Grandparents' Day. (page 63)
- Have the class make and send invitations for this special event. (page 64)

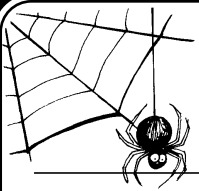
Spider Riddles

Directions

Stump your classmates with spider riddles. Write facts that will identify a particular spider and be ready to read your riddles.

Here is an example of a spider riddle:

She is black.
She has a red hourglass shape on her abdomen.
She lives in dark places like woodpiles.
Her bite can kill another spider or even a human.
She is a _____ .

 **My Spider Riddle**
