



Our Grand Adventure

Classroom Guide

The best adventures happen when two generations explore together

CASEL Competency: Relationship Skills

Grade Level: Pre-K–3

Duration: 40–50 minutes

Category: Stories Together

Learning Objectives

- Discover that grandparents (or elder figures) carry stories and wisdom from another time
 - Learn that intergenerational adventures create connections that bridge the years
 - Understand that sometimes the CHILD teaches the elder something new
 - Practice sharing stories across generations
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Overview & Preparation

Key Vocabulary

Adventure • Generation • Wisdom • Stories • Together • Discover • Guide • Share • Memory • Connection

Materials Needed

- The personalized story
- Paper and crayons
- Interview question cards
- Optional: items from home representing family stories
- Optional: digital recording device

Before Reading

Connection Question

What is your favorite thing about spending time with a grandparent or older person in your life?

Background Building

In this story, a grandparent arrives and the adventure begins — but it's not just the grandparent leading. They plan TOGETHER, set off into the world, and share discoveries along the way. The grandparent tells stories from their own adventures; the child shows the grandparent something new. And at the end, by the campfire (or on the couch), they realize: the best adventures aren't about where you go. They're about who you go WITH.

During Reading — Pause Points

- **When the grandparent shares a story from their own past** — The grandparent has been on adventures too! What do you think YOUR grandparent did when they were your age?
- **When the child helps the grandparent with something** — The child is teaching the grandparent! Old and young can learn from each other. What could YOU teach an older person?
- **At the campfire/couch moment when they reflect together** — They're sharing the day together. These are the moments that become memories. What moment with a grandparent do you remember most?

Discussion Questions

1. The grandparent and child planned the adventure TOGETHER. Why is planning with someone from a different generation special?

↳ What might a grandparent think of that a kid wouldn't, and vice versa?

2. The grandparent shared stories. Why are stories from the past important?

↳ What story have you heard from an older person that you want to remember?

3. The child taught the grandparent something new. Why is it important that teaching goes BOTH ways?

↳ What do young people know that older people might not?

4. At the end, they realized the best part was being together. Why does WHO you're with matter more than WHERE you go?

↳ What makes time with an older person different from time with a friend your age?

Facilitation Tips

Be sensitive to children who don't have grandparents or elder figures. Broaden the language: "a grandparent, an older neighbor, an auntie, any elder who cares about you." Consider inviting an elder volunteer to the classroom for this lesson.

Emotional Payoff

Two generations discover that the adventure isn't the destination — it's the conversation, the shared stories, the mutual teaching, and the quiet moments together that become the most treasured memories.

After Reading Activities

Elder Interview Questions

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Interview cards, paper, pencils

Practice interview questions for an elder: "What was your favorite adventure?" "What did you love doing when you were my age?" "What's the bravest thing you ever did?" Students practice asking each other, then take the questions home to interview a real elder.

Then & Now Drawing

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Paper folded in half, crayons

LEFT: Draw your grandparent (or elder) when they were YOUR age. RIGHT: Draw you together NOW. Compare: different times, same love. What connects the past to the present?

Adventure Planning Map

Duration: 10 min | Materials: Paper, markers, stickers

Plan a real or imaginary adventure with an elder. Draw a map. Include: something the elder would love, something the child would love, and something they'd discover TOGETHER. The planning IS the adventure.

Writing Prompts

- Write 3 questions you would ask your grandparent about their life. Why did you choose those?
- Draw a "grand adventure" you'd like to take with someone older. Where would you go? What would you discover?
- Write about something an older person taught you that you'll always remember.

Home Connection

Family Letter

Dear Families,

Today we read "Our Grand Adventure," about the magic that happens when two generations explore together. Your child practiced interview questions for elders and learned that the best adventures are about who you're with, not where you go.

Here is how you can continue this learning at home:

- Have your child interview a grandparent or elder using the practice questions
- Plan a small "grand adventure" together — even a walk around the block counts when the conversation is good
- Share a story from YOUR childhood with your child

With warmth,

Your Child's Teacher

Related Books

- Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say
- The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster
- Knuffle Bunny Free by Mo Willems
- Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman