

ABOUT

the Author

VÉRONIQUE VAN DEN ABEELE wrote *Still My Grandma* when her own grandmother had Alzheimer's disease. It is her first book for young readers. In addition to writing, Véronique is a teacher and a translator. She lives in Belgium.

the Illustrator

CLAUDE K. DUBOIS is a writer and illustrator. She has worked on more than thirty books for young readers, including *I Love You So Much* by Carl Norac (Doubleday). Claude also teaches illustration at the Saint-Luc Institute in Belgium.



PRAISE FOR

Still My Grandma

“The book illustrates the capacity for love and understanding that makes a very difficult situation bearable.”

— *School Library Journal*

“Lending a dreamy quality of wonderful pictorial memories surrounded by sweeping strokes of gentle whites, yellows, and pinks. . . . This is a gentle, effective, albeit slightly simplified tale of this increasingly common disease.”

— *Kirkus Reviews*

STILL MY GRANDMA

Written by Véronique Van den Abeele
Illustrated by Claude K. Dubois

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5323-3 ❖ \$16.00

8⁵/₈" x 8⁵/₈" ❖ 28 pages ❖ Ages 4-8

Full-color illustrations throughout

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If you have any suggestions for using *Still My Grandma* with young readers, we would be happy to hear from you.

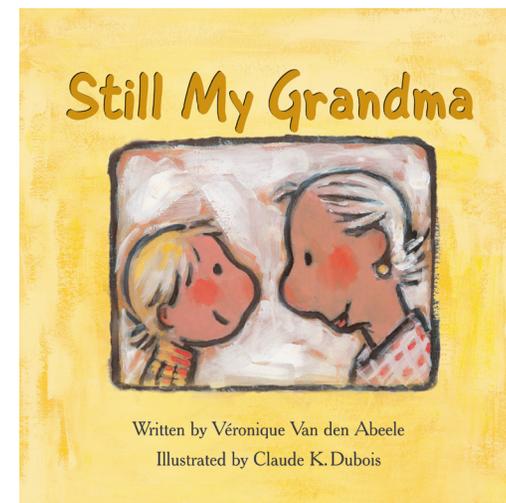
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STILL MY GRANDMA

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I never wanted Grandma to leave, so I'd ask her to sing me a song to put me to sleep. She would rub my head as she sang all the verses to 'You Are My Sunshine.'

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Family relationships
- ❖ Love
- ❖ Traditions
- ❖ Aging
- ❖ Memory
- ❖ Loss

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers
Discussion Guide

VOCABULARY

Look up the following terms in a reference book: blessing, favorite, pretended, traditions, treasure, specialty, confused, Alzheimer’s disease.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. Read the title of the book and study the cover illustration. Who do you think the characters are? What do you think the story is about?
2. Think about an older relative you feel close to, such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle. When you see this relative, what do you talk about? What do you do together?
3. Sometimes, when people get older, they change in important ways. Has anyone you know changed as he or she has grown older? How? How has this person stayed the same?
4. Think about a time when you had to be strong even though something frightening or sad was happening. What was it? How did you feel inside? What did you do to stay strong?
5. Sometimes people who are very old go to live in special homes where doctors and nurses can take care of them. Do you know someone who lives in this kind of home? Have you ever visited him or her there? What was it like?

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. Look again at the first page of the story. What does this page tell you about Camille? Think about what you have in common with her. How is she like you or your friends?
2. Before Camille’s grandma gets sick, what do she and Camille like to do together? Why does Camille call the things they do “traditions”? Do you have special traditions that you share with someone?
3. Look at the illustrations on pages 4–12. Think about how Camille’s grandma looks in these pictures. Which one is your favorite? Why do you like this picture best?
4. Look at the illustrations on pages 14 and higher. How does Camille’s grandma look in these pictures? How has she changed?
5. Camille is worried when her grandma starts to get confused. What does Camille do at first? Do you think she does the right thing? Why or why not?
6. Camille and her grandma still spend time together after her grandma gets sick. How has their time together changed? How is it the same?
7. Imagine that someone you know got confused and could not always remember you. What could you do to help that person feel better? Are there traditions you could keep, like Camille keeps with her grandma?

ACTIVITIES

1. Camille and her grandma make chocolate cupcakes together. Do you have a food you like to make with a family member? With a group of your classmates, make a recipe book. Write down your favorite recipes. Illustrate them with drawings and pictures.
2. Camille’s grandma has a treasure box. It is filled with “tiny spoons, teacups, and glittery necklaces.” Make your own treasure box. First, find a box you can use to keep special things safe for a long time. Then, put in items that you like or that are special.
3. Camille enjoys looking at old pictures of her grandma. Make a poster of family pictures. First, find old photographs of your family. With your parents’ help, write labels that tell who is in each picture, and mount them on poster board. Be careful not to damage the photographs! Share your poster with the class, and tell the class which pictures are your favorites and why.
4. The doctors tell Camille the best thing that she can do is visit her grandma. Is there a home near you like the one where Camille’s grandma lives? With your teacher’s help, find out what your class can do to help the people who live there. Can you visit and bring food, books, or other gifts? What else can your class do?