

## About the Author & Illustrator

Ethel Footman Smothers is the author of *Down in Piney Woods*, selected as a notable children's book by the National Council of Social Studies, and *Moriah's Pond*, selected by the Child Study Committee of Bank Street College as one of the best children's books of the year. *Auntee Edna* is her first picture book. Ethel lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Wil Clay has illustrated many picture books, including *Little Eight John*, which was selected as a Coretta Scott King Honor book, *Tailypo!*, *The Real McCoy*, *The House in the Sky*, and *I am Rosa Parks*. Wil Clay lives in Roanoke, Virginia.

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### *Auntee Edna*

Written By Ethel Footman Smothers • Illustrated by Wil Clay  
Hardcover ISBN: 0-8028-5154-1 • \$16.00  
8 1/2 x 11 • 32 pages • Ages 5-12  
Full-color illustrations throughout  
World Rights

To order ***Auntee Edna***, call 1-800-253-7521 or  
E-mail: [sales@eerdmans.com](mailto:sales@eerdmans.com)

If you have suggestions for using *Auntee Edna* with children, please send them to us at the address below.

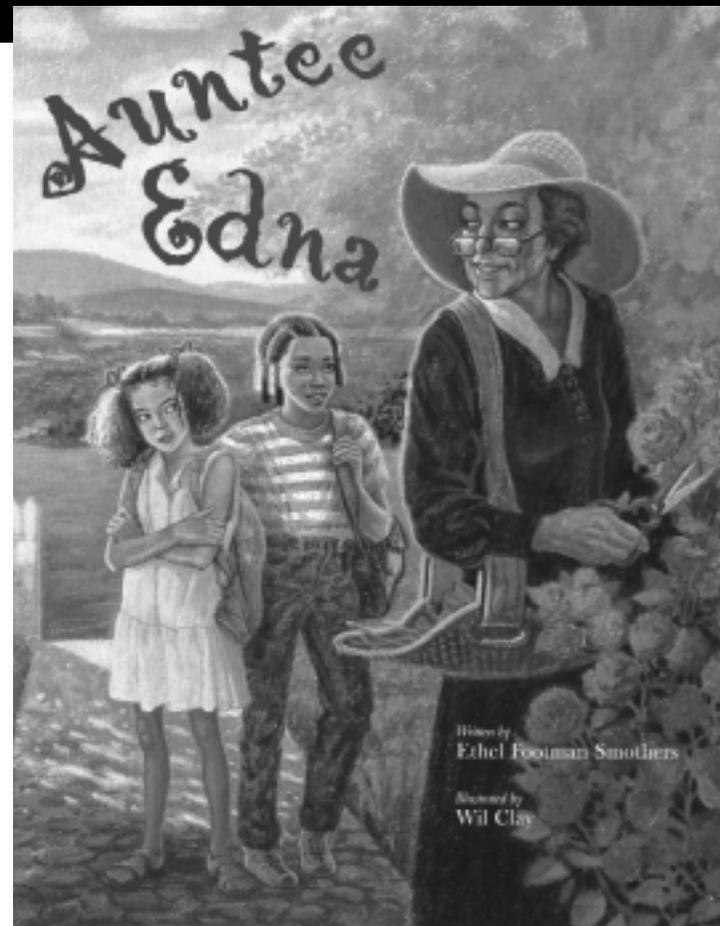


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## An Eerdmans Books for Young Readers Discussion Guide



Tokee was having one of those days, her "wish I'd never been born" kind. How come she had to be cooped up here with her old-fashioned Auntee Edna?

"You need to get to know your people, and don't call your auntee old-fashioned," Mom had cautioned before bringing Tokee and her sister to Auntee Edna's house. But Tokee was sure that Auntee Edna would be no fun — she didn't even have a TV!

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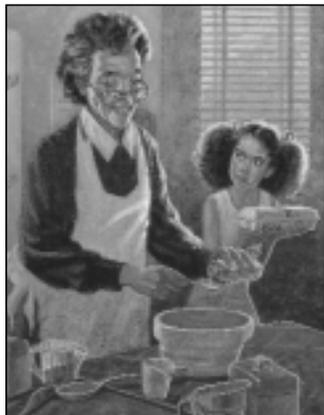
## While Reading

Auntee Edna is a warm story about kinship and family heritage. While reading, consider how Ethel Footman Smothers' text and Wil Clay's illustrations capture the changing mood of Tokee as she learns to appreciate her Auntee Edna.

## Discussion Topics



- What did Tokee mean when she called Auntee Edna "old fashioned?" How does Tokee's visit with Auntee Edna turn out? Name something you dreaded doing that turned out to be fun. What did you learn from the experience?
- Discuss some things that Tokee could have done to keep from being bored at Auntee Edna's house. What do you do to keep from being bored?
- People use recipes to make different kinds of food. Did Auntee Edna use a recipe to make teacakes? How do you know?
- Tokee learned about many new things while she was visiting Auntee Edna. What are some new things that you learned from this story?
- Discuss some of the stories and traditions that have been passed down through your family.



## Suggestions

Ask your grandparents or an elderly person for an old recipe. Bring it to class. Have your class collect all the recipes and make a recipe book.

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Have you ever had a "wish I'd never been born" day? Have a discussion about what happened on one of those days.

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Auntee Edna did not have a TV but that didn't stop her from having fun. Visit the library to find out about games children played before television was invented.

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Make up your own game using items that you find around your house.

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Ask your grandparents or another elderly person to tell you what kinds of chores they had to do when they were young. Compare these chores with the chores Auntee Edna did when she was a child. How are these chores alike? How are they different?

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Pretend that you are Tokee and that you are keeping a journal. Write in your journal about how you would feel about staying at Auntee Edna's house or how you would feel about your sister Reba leaving to play with someone else. Share your entry with a small group.

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When Auntee Edna was a child, people reused a lot of things and were not so quick to throw them away. Find an item in your house that would normally be thrown away and reuse it for something else.

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Interview an older relative or friend. Find out what life was like when he or she was young.

