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Literature at the Primary Level Depicting a Positive Image of the Elderly: A Bibliography

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LITERATURE AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL
DEPICTING A POSITIVE IMAGE OF THE ELDERLY:

A BIBLIOGRAPHY


BY

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ABSTRACT

It is the purpose of this study to compose a bibliography of primary level books and/or stories that depict a positive image of the elderly.

Various procedures were used to gather selections of reading material for primary level children which portray this image. The following were the methods used for this compilation.

Numerous reference books which categorize children's books under related topics were examined. Approximately thirty-five letters were submitted to various organizations which deal with the elderly population asking for information or sources regarding this topic. Letters were also sent to thirty-five randomly selected publishing companies requesting suggested literature. Several teacher's magazines occasionally sighted books of interest.

The results are a compilation of seventy-two primary children's books and nine short stories that depict a positive image of the elderly.

LITERATURE AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL
DEPICTING A POSITIVE IMAGE OF THE ELDERLY:

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CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

What literature at the primary level is available that depicts a positive image of the elderly?

Rationale

Today approximately 29 million Americans are 65 years old or older. By 2010, the number in this age group is projected to increase by one third, to 39 million. Between 2010 and 2030, this 65 plus group is expected to grow more than 60 percent, to 64.6 million. This 20-year surge will reflect the aging of the 75 million baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964 (Denning, 1987).

In a 1977 study by Serock, Seefeldt, Jantz and Galper, 180 children with varied ages of 3 to 11 were questioned regarding the elderly. Results indicated that most of them perceived the elderly in a negative way. Perceived characteristics were "wrinkled, short and gray-haired," people who "chew funny," "don't go out much," "sit all day

and watch TV in their rocking chairs," and "have heart attacks and die."

The elderly population in America is increasing. The negative view of the aging society must be avoided. Older people are "coming out of the closet and demanding to be regarded as valuable" (Ramsey, 1987). They are no longer willing to accept a passive role in society.

Basal and supplementary reading materials are significant in that they influence children during their malleable years. Publishers of primary reading materials have complied with societal changes by altering basal readers to include equitable representation of minorities and women. They have, however, neglected the elderly.

In a recent study, Bruce Gutknecht (1986) analyzed the content of stories in several basal reading systems widely used in primary reading instruction. He examined the relative frequency of main characters who were elderly, the quality of characterizations of elderly characters in relation to other characters in the stories, the incidence of aging themes, and incidental references to the aging or the elderly. His findings indicated that few positive depictions of aging and the elderly exist in primary grade reading instructional materials.

Basal readers are the most frequently used resource for reading instruction in primary grades (1-3) in the public schools (Burmeister, 1983). Children often identify with characters, but they develop images, values, and begin to formulate ideals of society.

Because the population of the elderly constitutes 11 percent of the total population (Spain, 1983), and because children's literature plays a significant part of children's impressionable years, it is necessary to pursue the present study of finding out if there is available primary reading materials that depict the elderly in a positive image.

Definitions

For the purpose of this study the term elderly will be defined as those persons 65 years old or older. Basal readers are books used as the major means of reading instruction in the primary grades. Supplementary materials are literary works which are used in addition to basal readers. The term positive depiction pertains to elderly persons who function independently in society without the aid of other persons for any physical or emotional handicaps they may have. Incorporated in their lives are hobbies, sports and/or emotions of sensitivity, imagination and/or humor.

Purpose

It is the purpose of this study to compose a bibliography of primary level books and/or stories that depict a positive image of the elderly.

CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

For age is opportunity no less
than youth itself, though in another dress,
And as the evening twilight fades away
the sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.

Longfellow

The aging of American society is a demographic phenomenon with vast economic, social and political implications. There has been, and will continue to be, a great deal of discussion about the impact this trend will have on the nation's institutions and social systems: the family, education, the work force, health care, and retirement planning. There has also been some speculation regarding the effect of an aging society on the values and attitudes held by the American people. Some observers have predicated that, as the median age rises, the values of older and younger Americans will become more similar and the generations will grow closer together. For others, including some in the news media and governmental circles, an aging population is seen as a source of tension among

the generations. Their point of view, briefly stated, is that current social policy favors the elderly at the expense of younger generations; further, that the aging of society, particularly the baby boom cohort, will place a potentially intolerable burden on succeeding generations, and, thus, lead to conflict (The Daniel Yankelovich Group, Inc., 1987).

Images of the Elderly

Many images of old age that circulated in the United States from 1790 to 1860 resemble those that flourish today. Etchings, photographs, and prints of that period generally reveal the same gray hairs and deeply lined faces. They sometimes accentuate the economic and physical problems we still associated with being old (Achenbaum, 1978).

In 1975, the National Council on the Aging reported the results of a Harris (1975) survey of American adults that was conducted to determine popular images of aging. The results obtained by Harris were generally consistent with those obtained decades earlier.

In past decades, for example, in the Rhetoric, Aristotle described elderly men as cynical, distrustful, small-minded, not generous, cowardly, fearful, too fond of themselves, shameless, slaves to the love of gain, querulous.

Juvenal wrote in his Satues, XI that "old age is more to be feared than death" (Freimuth & Jamieson, 1979, p. 9). Nonetheless, as Twain wrote, "it is better to be a young June-bug than an old bird of Paradise" (Freimuth & Jamieson, 1959, p. 39). George Bernard Shaw said that "old men are dangerous because it doesn't matter to them what is going to happen to the world" (Kehl, 1985, p. 542).

Still another kind of evidence of the changing attitude toward age is linguistic. As elderly people began to lose their social status, the world developed a more elaborate vocabulary with which to abuse them. The result was the invention of a new language to express contempt for old people. The Oxford English Dictionary indicates that most of our pejorative terms for old men began to appear during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Some were old words which had earlier carried an honorific meaning - gaffer, for example. Gaffer had been a title of respect, even a term of endearment, in seventeenth and eighteenth century England. It probably arose as a contraction of godfather. By 1820 gaffer (usually old gaffer) had been converted from a praise word into a pejorative expressing general contempt for old men. Another such word is fogy, which before 1780 meant a wounded military veteran. By 1830 fogy had

become a "disrespectful appellation for a man advance in life" (Quadagno, 1980).

In the next century many other terms of specialized abuse were invented. Old cornstalk (1824) was an Americanism for "an ineffectual old man" (Mathews, 1951). Old goat meant a lecherous old man; fuddy-duddy, a pompous old man; granny, a weak old man; mummy, an ugly old man; geezer, an eccentric old man; goose, a silly old man; galoot, an uncouth old man; bottle-nose, an alcoholic old man; back number, an anachronistic old man (Quadagno, 1980).

Butler (1975) summarized the multitude of stereotypes associated with old age as follows:

An older person thinks and moves slowly. He does not think as he used to or as creatively. He is bound to himself and can no longer change or grow. He can learn neither well nor swiftly and, even if he could he would not wish to. Tied to his personal traditions and growing conservatism, he dislikes innovations and is not disposed to new ideas. Not only can he not move forward, he often moves backward. He enters a second childhood, caught up in increasing egocentricity and demanding more from his environment than he is willing to

give to it. Sometimes he becomes an intensification of himself, a caricature of a lifelong personality. He becomes irritable and cantankerous, yet shallow and enfeebled. He lives in his past, he is behind the times. He is aimless and wandering of mind, reminiscing and garrulous. Indeed, he is a study in decline, the picture of mental and physical failure. He has lost and cannot replace friends, spouse, job, status, power, influence, income. He is often stricken by diseases which, in turn, restrict his movement, his enjoyment of food, the pleasures of well-being. He has lost his desire and capacity for sex. His body shrinks, and so too does the flow of blood to his brain. His mind does not utilize oxygen and sugar at the same rate as formerly. Feeble, uninteresting, he awaits his death, a burden to society, to his family, and to himself. As recently as the 1970s, American adults typically agreed that "most people over 65" were not very physically active, not very good at getting things done, not very useful members of their community, not very bright and alert, not very open-minded and adaptable, and not very sexually active.

Elderly in Television Commercials

The population of the television world reflects the values of that world. In addition, the length of time any one person (or type, or age) appears on screen also reflects the values of the special world of television (Davis & Davis, 1985).

The major impact of TV commercials is undoubtedly a visual one. The viewer is presented with a rapidly changing series of scenes depicting young people in action poses or scenes depicting sensory gratification. The youth image constitutes a grouping. It directs one to take note of youth, action, and sensory gratification in a favorable way. This does not, however, operate on only the visual plane. It charges one to feel youthful, to act youthful, and to believe that youth, action, and sensory gratification as a focus has a universal validity to hold youth in awe and to use youth as a role model (Nelson, 1964).

"Good skin starts young and stays younger looking with...." "I look younger with....," "...makes me feel ten years younger" are consistent appeals. It is young women who appear in most beauty product ads and older women who appear in ads for pain relievers, digestive aids, laxatives, and denture ads. As the size of the elderly as a consuming population increases, such ads will probably

include more older characters in other roles and eliminate "aging" as a pejorative term. The first signs of such changes are already evident. The percent of older women appearing in ads increased between January and October 1978. The percent of ads using aging as a pejorative term and youth as a positive term also declined (Freimuth & Jamieson, 1979).

Elderly in Television Programming

Several studies have counted the elderly in various segments of the broadcast day.

Aranoff (1974) analyzed data pertaining to the age of 2,741 characters in prime time network television drama sampled between 1969 and 1971. He identified 98 older males and 36 older females. Each comprised only 4.9 percent of the population for their sex.

Harris and Feinberg (1977) gathered data on frequency and type of characterization of the elderly. They used a four-hour random sampling of four time segments during the broadcast day. The programs were selected on a random basis over a six-weeks period from all seven days of the week and from all networks. A total of 312 characters were observed and rated. Of these, 24 were classified as being between age 60 and 70. Only two were identified as over 70.

Peterson (1973) analyzed 30 network half hours of prime time in 1972. She counted all people who were known to be at least 65 and who were themselves on the show. In addition, she counted those playing roles she judged to be at least 65. She found 32 people, three of whom were women. This amounted to 13 percent of the television population reviewed.

Ansello (1978) analyzed 238 half-hour segments of programs as well as commercials in 1977 and 1978. He found that 6 percent of this population could be identified as elderly.

In 1974, Northcott did a content analysis of prime time drama on the three networks. All role portrayals lasting two minutes or longer were analyzed. This amounted to 464 role portrayals. Of these, only seven, or 1.5 percent appeared to be over 65 years of age.

Greenberg, Korzenny, and Atkin (1979) surveyed for character age in programming in the fall of 1975, 1976, and 1977. Those over age 65 comprised 4 percent of the characters in the first year, 3 percent of the second, and 2 percent of the third. This group analyzed more than 3,500 characters over the three years of the study. Barely 100, or 3 percent, were in the old age bracket.

Cassatta (1980) studied soap opera characters. He monitored 365. Of these, 58, or 15.9 percent were evaluated to be 55 or older. The majority were judged to be in their 60's.

In Gerbners 1980 study, he found that the elderly tend to be shown as more comical, stubborn, eccentric, and foolish than other characters. They are more likely to be treated with disrespect. The latter is more true in prime time programming than daytime serials.

Finally, Elliott's study of daytime soap opera (1981) analyzed 723 characters. Fifty-eight people were determined to be age 60 and above; this constitutes 8 percent of the study population. An estimated 12.6 percent of the study population appeared to be in late middle age, age 50 to 59.

From these studies, it is apparent that the number of older people appearing on television does not correlate with the population of older people in society. Of course, there is no rule or regulation that says there should be a correlation between fiction and reality. Indeed, such an "equal right" regulation would cause havoc with the various program decision makers, who would then be forced into contriving plots that included percentages of all kinds of people and ages (David & Davis, 1985).

The problem, however, with skewed distribution of the elderly rests in the awareness that what is important in our society finds its way onto television and if an issue or a person appears on television, then by virtue of appearance alone, the issue or person becomes important. When increasing age equals increasing invisibility on television, the message is clear: to be old is to be without importance (Davis & Davis, 1985).

Elderly in Magazine Ads

In Freimuth and Jamiesons 1979 study, several magazine ads were examined. In several issues of Time, Glamour, People, and Sports Illustrated, for example, no older women appeared in ads. The older woman, when visible, was likely to be shown in an ad for hair color, pain relievers, or a facial firm-up product.

Older men were portrayed more positively in magazine ads. Age seems to be equated with wealth in males (e.g., a well dressed older man promoting expensive men's clothing.) Age in males also signified experience and credibility in the ads (e.g., an older mechanic selling car parts (Freimuth & Jamieson, 1979).

In the early 1980s, however, studies are indicating a more positive depiction and increase of representation of the elderly in magazine ads. New products are being

developed at a rapid rate and are advertised carefully to capture the mature market.

Older persons are being portrayed in insurance advertising, food products, fast food chains, and all sorts of consumer promotions. Davis and Davis' study indicated the older person is not being overlooked in today's advertising. Agency awareness has greatly increased in the past several years. As recent evidence of this, guidelines for effective advertising to the elderly were presented at the 1982 Conference of the Advertising Research Foundation in New York (Davis & Davis, 1985).

Further evidence of awareness of this market and increased sophistication in approaching it is found in a 1984 article in the Journal of Advertising Record. Stephen and Warrens reported on the research directed toward understanding "Advertising Frequency Requirements for Older Adults." Clearly, advertising is responding to the realities of an aging market (Davis & Davis, 1985).

Children's Image of the Elderly

Persons of all ages are influenced by their own expectations and by the expectations of others. Negative stereotypes of elders are developed at a very young age.

In a study by Seefeldt (1977) most three to eleven year olds were able to select the oldest man from pictures of the man in four stages of life. Children, using physical characteristics to select the oldest, reported, "He has the most wrinkles," and "He hasn't much hair." When the children were asked how they would feel when they were old, the majority responded with such negative descriptions as "I would feel awful," "I'd be nearly dead," and "I'll be sick and tired and ready to be buried." A 1974 Harris survey found that the youngest group of Americans held the most negative attitudes toward the oldest group (Freimuth & Jamieson, 1979).

In 1978, Pratt and Castendyk did a study of some students in a suburban high school. They were asked to list terms describing themselves as they thought they would be between the ages of sixty and seventy. The results clearly showed that most young people look upon old age as a bad scene. Among the terms typically listed were "old geezer," "arthritic," "feeble," "senile," "old biddy," "old goat," and "fuddy-duddy." Several students simply listed themselves as being "dead" or a "corpse" at age seventy. Repetition of this simple experiment in other schools produced similar results.

The fact that these attitudes also prevail among younger children has been demonstrated by a more

comprehensive research project conducted by the University of Maryland's Center on Aging. This study by Block (1980) involved 180 children, ages three to eleven, from urban, suburban, and rural backgrounds. These children typically described old people as having passive roles, suffering from physical ailments, and needing help from others. They said that old people "are wrinkled up," "have gray hair," "are short," "talk funny," and suffer from "heart attacks," "sprained back," and "arthritis." Only 11 percent of the children had anything good to say about growing old themselves.

In a recent study by Mitchell, Wilson, Revicki and Parker (1985) responses from 255 black and white male and female children were used to identify the subdimensions of a 25-item index designed to measure children's perceptions: (1) personality characteristics, (2) affective relations, and (3) physical abilities. Their findings questioned propriety of polarizing the children's attitudes, as an undimensional concept, on a positive or negative dimension. According to the results, attitudes or perceptions should be viewed as a multi-dimensional concept. If subdimensional considerations are ignored, scientists may either mask or exaggerate potential differences in how people view the aging process. Children may view older

people more positively on one subdimension than another but this difference will not be evident unless the subdimensions are included in investigations.

It is estimated that a typical child has watched between 10,000 and 15,000 hours of television by the time the child is 16. Children draw on this mediated experience for information to acquaint themselves with the world and to equip themselves to function well within it. There is reason for concern about children's attitudes toward older persons which goes beyond their acceptance of the negative stereotypes and myths that abound in our society. Questions have been raised about the influence of such beliefs on the child's developing self-image and about the effect of such conditioning on productive intergenerational relationships (Davis & Davis, 1985).

People may value old wines and lace, but see nothing glamorous or lovely in their own aging. People dye hair, have faces lifted, and struggle to maintain the slimness of youth. Children claim they'll never grow old because old is just too ugly and sick (Seefeldt, 1983).

In a recent study, children's attitudes toward the elderly were measured and compared in the mainland United States, the Aleutian Islands, Paraguay and Australia. The children who were tested were in the fourth through sixth grades, between the ages of nine and 11.

A standardized test, Children's Attitudes Toward the Elderly (CATE) was translated into the local language and administered by school officials. The test's two separate scales measure attitudes of young people, ages nine to 11, toward old people. Each scale consisted of 10 items - bipolar adjectives used to rate old and young people on a five-point scale. The adjective pairs includes: good-bad, pretty-ugly, terrible-wonderful, rich-poor, healthy-sick, right-wrong, happy-sad, dirty-clean, helpful-harmful, and friendly-unfriendly.

Each child also completed several open-ended questions in writing. Some of these questions addressed frequency and type of contact with elders, and one asked the children to describe how they would feel when they were old - good, neutral, or bad. The results of this testing suggest that children in all four cultures appear to hold negative attitudes toward their own aging and toward the elderly. In Paraguay, 50 percent said they would feel "bad" when they themselves were old, as did 41 percent of the native Alaskans, 76 percent of the Australians, and 70 percent of the mainland Americans (Seefeldt, 1983).

Children in the mainland United States rated young and old people similarly. They saw old and young as being of equal worth. On the other hand, the Australian children

rated young people more positively than did children in the other cultures, and the children in Paraguay and the Aleutian Islands ranked old people more negatively than did the other children. There were differences between the cultures on individual test items as well. Mainland American children viewed old people as less helpful and less happy than did children in Alaska, Australia, or Paraguay. The Australian children rated young people as healthier than did children in the other cultures. While native Alaskans rated the total concept of old age more negatively than others did, they also viewed old people as more wonderful than did children in the other cultures. Children in Paraguay rated old people as richer than did those in the other countries (Seefeldt, 1983).

All children tested reported contact with elders in one form or another. Nearly 99% of the native Alaskan children reported knowing or living with an elderly family member, and knowing an elder outside of the family unit. They reported doing active things with elders -- hunting, fishing, chopping wood, or taking trips to the city. Children in the Australian sample also reported frequent and regular contact with elders -- an older member of the family unit or another older person. Only 69% of the children in the Paraguayan sample reported knowing an older

person, and only 41% of the mainland U.S. sample said they knew and did things with an older person (Seefeldt, 1983). These negative attitudes are destructive in a number of ways. First, stereotyping of the elderly and negative feelings toward them make it more difficult for children to develop their full potential. If children fear their own aging and deny their own growth and ultimate mortality, they will be unable to accept themselves fully. Also, when children hold negative attitudes toward the old, they cut themselves off from meaningful interaction with a group of interesting, diverse others, and from opportunities to learn from older persons that aging is a normal part of life (Seefeldt, 1983).

Depictions of the Elderly in Children's Literature

Old age has long held a fascination for people of all ages. While the folk wisdom and words of poets and philosophers in times past reflected on the pleasures and compensations of old age, they also dwelt on its miseries and limitations. Literature in recent decades has concentrated even more on the problems of old age. Contemporary works on old age and aging speak of losses - of one's major roles and one's friends or marital partner - and of such decrements as deteriorating health, impaired

physiological and cognitive functioning, and reductions in income and power. A recurrent theme is that in modern society old people are tolerated at best; whereas in most preindustrial societies they were honored and often of economic and social importance (Foner, 1986).

Numerous children's book reference guides have subject indexes which list books regarding the elderly under topic headings such as aged and grandparents. Upon initial preview of over one hundred children's books, locating positive depictions of the elderly was limited. Most dealt with death and nursing homes or the disabilities of the elderly such as wheelchairs, loss of hearing, senility, and the like. These books do serve a purpose for child counseling, however, there is a large underrepresentation of positive depictions of the elderly.

In Good Night Moon, the old woman simply sits in a rocking chair. In The Giving Tree, the old man returns and says, "I don't need very much now... just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired." Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother is ill in bed. Older people are often destitute and unhappy in children's books. In The Old Woman and Her Pig, "a poor old woman lived alone in a little house," and Old Mother Hubbard's cupboards were bare (Freimuth & Jamieson, 1979).

Several recent studies regarding basal readers have been investigated. Gutknecht in 1986 analyzed the content of stories in two basal reading systems widely used in primary grade reading instruction. The analysis was in terms of relative frequency of the elderly character as main characters in relation to other characters in the stories, the incidence of aging themes, and incidental references to aging or the elderly.

The results of character representation indicated that the elderly do not appear as primary characters to any great degree. Of the 844 primary characters in 298 stories analyzed, only 6.6 percent were elderly.

More negative than positive statements were made about the elderly in the materials. In the two basal readers under study, 61.5 percent of the statements made about the elderly were negative. Statements regarding the elderly, aging, and old age were made in terms of capacity loss, necessity of assistance, physical problems, and unattractiveness (Gutknecht, 1986).

Serra and Lamb (1984) reported only 6.8 percent of 1,036 basal reader stories discussed or included elderly characters.

Fillmer and Meadow (1987), compared five complete sets of 1960s readers with five series of the 1980s.

Their results concurred with previous studies regarding lack of representation in reading stories. Other results of their study, however, indicated older characters usually assumed major or supporting roles in stories and did not appear as grandparents, aunts, uncles, or neighbors in the majority of instances. They found that elderly characters are frequently cast as grandparents in realistic fiction works and other children's books, but not in basal reader stories.

Still other results of their study found elderly characters appeared in pictures only, not in the narrative in the textbooks of the 1980s more often than in the readers of the 1960s (18 percent and 7 percent, respectively). Publishers may be attempting to remedy underrepresentation by using more elderly in illustrations rather than finding stories that include them (Fillmer & Meadows, 1987).

Fillmer & Meadow's study found no discrimination against elderly characters in their personal portrayals in the stories. The elderly generally maintained normal posture, demonstrated capable or intelligent mental ability, manifested healthy physical well-being, displayed pleasant personalities, and dressed in accordance with the styles and customs of the setting. They were portrayed as

unattractive in fewer than 10 percent of the instances in the series of 1960's and 1980's. These findings corroborated reports by Blue (1978), Fillmer and Meadows (1986), Kingston and Drotter (1981), and Rutherford (1981). Older characters were seldom depicted wearing their hair in a bun, wearing aprons, or carrying canes.

It has been found that the components of early attitudes eventually become the values and stereotypes which tend to persist throughout life and have a strong influence upon an individual's adult role. While some research reports evidence to the contrary, most investigations show that adolescents hold generally negative attitudes toward the aged. In fact, some studies suggest that adolescents hold more negative views toward the aged than does any other age group.

Because children today can expect to live longer and healthier lives than any preceding generation, they should develop informed attitudes toward aging and older adults. One way that educators can contribute to the formation of these attitudes is by introducing planned learning experiences on aging at all levels (Reville & Struntz, 1985).

Children need to be given an accurate picture of aging. Their awareness and understanding of older

people can be increased through books and stories that include at least one older character who is active in and important to the story. By positive and accurate portrayals of older people, and by books and stories that treat aspects of aging directly even if they do not contain older characters this awareness and understanding can be increased. Such books are difficult to find because older people often are underrepresented or treated as stereotypes in children's books.

CHAPTER III: DESIGN OF STUDY

Purpose

Because there is an awesome increase of the elderly population and because children's literature plays a prominent part in children's impressionable years, it is essential to pursue the present study.

The purpose of this study is to compose a bibliography of primary level books and/or stories that depict a positive image of the elderly.

Definitions

Significant definitions were previously stated; however, for the purpose of accessibility, they will be reiterated.

The term elderly will be defined as those persons 65 years old or older. Basal readers are books used as the major means of reading instruction in the primary grades. Supplementary materials are literary works which are used in addition to basal readers. The term positive depictions pertain to portrayals of elderly persons with the ability to function independently in society without the aid of other persons for any physical or emotional handicaps they may have. Incorporated in their lives are

hobbies, sports and/or emotions of sensitivity, imagination and/or humor.

Criteria for Selecting Positive Depictions of the Elderly in Children's Literature

The procedures used to gather selections of reading materials for primary level children which portrays a positive image of the elderly were developed through various means. Criteria for positive depictions, age level and other pertinent data must first be stated to focus on this specific study.

As previously noted, the books and/or stories under study are for primary level children. Primary level children are those in kindergarten to grade three with ages ranging from five to nine.

The concept of a positive depiction of the elderly can be a controversial issue. The word positive can have a variety of interpretations - basically, it is an opinion. However, in order for clarification in this study, a more precise meaning must be developed.

The elderly persons appearing as characters in selections chosen for this bibliography will have human characteristics. Positive depictions of this age group will be described by lack of need for assistance for any physical (e.g.,

wheelchair, blind, arthritis) or emotional (e.g., mental deterioration, such as memory loss) handicaps they may have. It should be noted that these characters may have these disadvantages shown visually in illustrations or in print; however, they must be a credit to their personality, not a deficit. The characters included in this selection must have personal hobbies, engage in sports, and include activities and/or emotions of sensitivity, imagination and/or humor. Basically, if the projected image is established, under most circumstances, any adult age group could replace these characters.

The readability levels are determined by the author or publishing companies.

Procedure

Numerous reference books are available which categorize children's books under specific topics. Those topics pertaining to the elderly are classified under headings such as: aged, old people, grandparents, grandmother, and grandfather. Several of these resource books are: A to Zoo, Subject Access to Children's Picture Books, Children's Catalog, The Bookfinder - When Kids Need Books and The Bookfinder - A Guide to Children's Literature About the Needs and Problems of Youth. Most of these give a brief summary of the story and major characters.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has ten area offices in the United States. A letter was submitted to each area special project director asking for a list of any books and/or stories they were aware of which developed a positive depiction of the elderly (see Appendix A). A self-stamped return addressed envelope was enclosed.

The Publishers/Producers Director has a listing of a number of publishing companies dealing in children's literature. Letters were sent to thirty-five randomly selected companies requesting information. Further communication to other companies will be sent in the near future.

Approximately, thirty-five various organizations that represent the older populations are also included in this survey. Examples of these are: National Center on Black Aged, National Council of Senior Citizens, National Retired Teachers Association, Gerontological Society, Gray Panthers, Jewish Association for Services for the Aged, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, National Indian Council on Aging and Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Teacher's magazines, such as the Instructor and Teacher, Learning, The Magazine for Creative Teaching

and Teaching Pre K-8, at times, sight books of interest. For example, in the April-May 1985's issue of Learning magazine, Barbara Elleman suggested Mr. Gumpy's Outing by John Burningham. The story is about a mild-mannered old man who takes two children, a rabbit, a cat, a dog, and several other animals on a boat ride resulting in disaster. All ends happily, though, and everyone sloshes home for tea.

Public libraries were of great use when locating topics under subject indexes. The children's section of the Haydon Burns and Regency Square Branch were used for this study.

Format

A format for recording the analysis of books and/or stories that depict the elderly in a positive way was devised. The basic format used is attached with an example cited (see Appendix B and C).

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APPENDIX A
FORM LETTER



I am an elementary teacher in Jacksonville, Florida. Currently, I am pursuing my master's degree in elementary education. I have interest in investigating the area of locating children's reading material that depicts the aging and elderly in a positive way. In order for me to fulfill this requirement, your help would be appreciated.

In a 1977 study by Serock, Seefeldt, Jantz and Galper, 180 children with varied ages of 3 to 11 were questioned regarding the elderly. Results indicated that most of them described the elderly in a negative way. Perceived characteristics were "wrinkled, short and gray-haired," "people who chew funny," "don't go out much," "sit all day and watch TV in their rocking chairs," and "have heart attacks and die."

The elderly population in America is increasing. A more positive image of the elderly needs to be developed. Basal and supplementary readers are significant materials which influence children during their malleable years. Publishers of primary reading materials have complied with societal changes by altering basal readers to include equitable representation of minorities and women. They have, however, neglected the elderly.

My objective is to compose a bibliography of books and/or stories that portray the elderly in a positive manner. If you are aware of any books and/or stories that you feel will develop this image, please submit a list and forward them to me in the enclosed stamped envelope.

Your help in this search will be the beginning process of developing a positive perception towards the elderly. This thesis will be submitted to numerous publishing companies to bring an awareness of this need.

Your prompt answer to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carolyn M. Baynham

cmb
Enclosure

APPENDIX B

BIBLIOGRAPHY FORMAT

TITLE:

AUTHOR:

ILLUSTRATOR:

AGES:

PAGES:

PUBLISHER:

BRIEF SUMMARY:

APPENDIX C

TITLE: Kevin's Grandma
AUTHOR: Williams, Barbara
ILLUSTRATOR: Kay Chorao
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 27
PUBLISHER: Dutton, New York, NY (1975).

BRIEF SUMMARY: There's nothing like a grandmother and no grandmother like Kevins! She comes to see him when he's sick but doesn't bring crayons and coloring books and cartons of ice cream. She dashes up on a motorcycle with Mad magazine and peanut-butter soup. She also gives judo lessons, drinks tigers' milk, scuba-dives, and does many other wild and wonderful things. A delightful amusing book.

AUTHOR: Ardizzone, Edward
TITLE: Tim to the Lighthouse
ILLUSTRATOR: H. Z. Walck
AGES: 5-9
PAGES: iv. (unpaged)
PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press, New York, NY (1968).

BRIEF SUMMARY: This story is set in a seacoast town. It shows an older man running a lighthouse. The older character is fully developed.

AUTHOR: Bang, Betsy
TITLE: The Old Woman and the Red Pumpkin
ILLUSTRATOR: Molly Garrett Bang
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: MacMillan & Co., New York, NY (1975).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A retelling of an Indic folktale in which a skinny, old woman outwits the jackal, bear and tiger who want to eat her.

AUTHOR: Bang, Betsy
TITLE: The Old Woman and the Rice Thief
ILLUSTRATOR: Molly Garrett Bang
AGES: 5-9
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Greenwillow, New York, NY (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: "Every night a thief steals my rice," the old woman said, and off she went to seek help. With her quick wit, and the help of some friends, the old woman is able to outsmart the rice thief. Portrays the older woman as clever, quick-witted and intelligent.

AUTHOR: Barrett, Judi
TITLE: Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs
ILLUSTRATOR: Ron Barrett
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Atheneum, New York, NY. (1978)

BRIEF SUMMARY: Grandpa is cooking pancakes when something flies through the air and lands on Henry. That night Grandpa tells a story, touched off by the pancake incident, about a tiny town called Chewandswallow. It's a town in which the weather comes three times a day, at breakfast, lunch and dinner. It never rains rain or snows snow, but rains things like soup, juice, mashed potatoes and hamburgers. Problems arise which add to the imagination of this book. Grandpa tells an exceptionally humorous story in which his imagination is that of one which children can relate to.

The next morning the children and Grandpa go sledding. Even as they are sledding, they visually see the hill as mashed potatoes and the sun rising as the butter on top.

AUTHOR: Borack, Barbara
TITLE: Grandpa
ILLUSTRATOR: Ben Shecter
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 26
PUBLISHER: Harper & Row, New York, NY. (1967).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Marilyn tells of things she and Grandpa like to do, such as playing hide-n-seek, and washing up together in which Grandpa always nicks himself and then walks around with a piece of wet tissue. They go to the beach and take walks in the park.

Grandpa works at a store behind the counter. He lets Marilyn wear his shirts and play horse on his leg. He makes her friends laugh, makes noises like chickens, makes paper hats for her and they eat oranges then lick their fingers.

They have a special jug which no one else knows about that they both put pennies in. When Marilyn knocks over a vase, everyone yells at her but Grandpa gives her a band-aid. At times, they don't say anything to each other but listen to the radio.

Grandpa has a short visit in the hospital but the warm love shared between them continues as they write private notes back and forth.

AUTHOR: Brooks, Ron
TITLE: Timothy and Gramps
ILLUSTRATOR: Ron Brooks
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Bradbury Press, New York, NY. (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Timothy is a boy who has no brothers, sisters and no special friends except for Gramps. They take walks and exchange stories.

Timothy doesn't like school much until his grandfather visits his classroom for show and tell. After his visit, Timothy enjoys school much more.

AUTHOR: Buckley, Helen C.
TITLE: Grandmother and I
ILLUSTRATOR: Paul Galdone
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: unpagged
PUBLISHER: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., West Caldwell,
NJ (1959).

BRIEF SUMMARY: This book depicts grandmother as the comforter, the one whose lap is best for talking, for calming years, for soothing unhappiness.

AUTHOR: Burningham, John
TITLE: Mr. Gumpy's Outing
ILLUSTRATOR: John Burningham
AGES: 4-7
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, NY, NY (1970).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Mr. Gumpy is a mild-mannered older man who takes two children, a rabbit, a cat, a dog, and several other animals on a boat ride resulting in disaster. All ends happily, though, and everyone sloses home for tea.

Mr. Gumpy and his boatload of noisy friends spend an adventure-filled day, in this expressively illustrated story.

AUTHOR: Caines, Jeannette
TITLE: Window Wishing
ILLUSTRATOR: Kevin Brooks
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 20
PUBLISHER: Harper & Row, New York, NY. (1980).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Two children spend their vacations with Grandma Mag. She wears sneakers all the time, raises worms, fishes, makes kites, doesn't like to cook and rides a bike. Grandma Mag does many fun things. On Sundays she goes to church and reads the comics. She refers her age to that of Orphan Annie.

AUTHOR: Chorao, Kay
TITLE: Lester's Overnight
ILLUSTRATOR: Kay Chorao
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, NY (1977).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Lester, about five, spends his first night away from home with old-fashioned Auntie Belle in her strange Victorian house. How can he feel secure when he hears that his parents are "tied up" with their employer, and that Auntie Belle has a new "tiger cat"? Wonderful, very detailed illustrations add to the charm of this book.

AUTHOR: Cole, Babette
TITLE: The Trouble With Gran
ILLUSTRATOR: Babette Cole
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Putnam & Co., New York, NY (1984).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Although Gran looks like an ordinary sweet old lady, her comical shenanigans and alien powers make her senior citizens' vacation trip a hilarious adventure no one will ever forget. Whether she is demonstrating her objections to the entertainment provided, cheating to win the Glamorous Grandma contest, or livening up the fun fair, she makes sure no one has a dull time. The trip culminates in a visit to Gran's very own planet, where Carnival is in progress, and the senior citizens and their escorts have an experience that is out of this world! The illustrations, however, depict the typical stereotyping of an elderly woman.

AUTHOR: Coleridge, Ann
TITLE: The Friends of Emily Culpepper
ILLUSTRATOR: Ann Coleridge
AGES: 6-9
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Putnam, New York, NY. (1984).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Something strange is going on at Emily Culpepper's house! When the mailman comes to visit, she can't resist shrinking him and putting him into a jam jar for safekeeping. Emily doesn't mean any harm; she just enjoys having her friends around for company. Soon the village plumber and milkman turn up in Emily's jam jars, too, and a hilarious conclusion ensues when the village policeman pays Emily a visit.

Children will happily fall under Emily's spell. However, the illustrations do depict the typical stereotyping of an elderly woman.

AUTHOR: de Paola, Tomie
TITLE: The Kid's Cat Book
ILLUSTRATOR: Tomie de Paola
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Holiday House, New York, NY (1979).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Patrick goes to Granny Twinkle's for a free kitten and learns everything there is to know about cats. Granny Twinkle explains their different breeds, care, place in art, literature and history. This book shows the elderly woman as knowledgeable.

AUTHOR: de Paola, Tomie
TITLE: Strega Nona
ILLUSTRATOR: Tomie de Paola
AGES: 5-9
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ
(1975).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Wise Strega Nona, "Grandmother Witch," is whispered about in her town. But everyone in the town comes to her for potions and cures, magic and comfort. When she hires Big Anthony to look after her house and garden, the boy discovers her magic secrets, or so he thinks. Big Anthony is determined to show the towns people how her magic pasta pot works. The retelling of this old tale combines warmth and humor in pictures with an exciting and sympathetic text.

AUTHOR: dePaola, Tomie
TITLE: Watch Out for Chicken Feet in Your Soup
ILLUSTRATOR: Tomie dePaola
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Prentice-Hall, W. Nyack, NY (1974).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Joey is embarrassed to take a friend to visit his grandmother because she has a house full of funny old stuff and she has an accent. But Eugene likes Joey's grandmother, and Joey begins to appreciate her more when he finds out how well she and his friends get along.

AUTHOR: Devlin, Wende and Harry
TITLE: Cranberry Thanksgiving
ILLUSTRATOR: Wende and Harry Devlin
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 33
PUBLISHER: Parents Magazine Press, New York, NY (1971).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Maggie and her grandmother live at the edge of a cranberry bog in New England. Grandmother's recipe for cranberry bread is sought after by all the bakers in the area. On Thanksgiving Day they each invite someone to dinner. Something terrible happens, but Maggie's friend, Mr. Whiskers, saves the day.

The bread recipe is included at the back of the book.

AUTHOR: Douglass, Barbara
TITLE: Good as New
ILLUSTRATOR: Patience Brewster
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, West Caldwell, NJ. (1982).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Grady's grandpa is known for his ability to fix just about anything. When a young cousin ruins Grady's prize teddy bear, grandpa does a wonderful job of fixing it. He fixes it "better than new!"

This book portrays the grandfather as intelligent, creative and sensitive to the needs of the child. It conveys a loving and positive relationship between the boy and his grandfather.

AUTHOR: Fern, Eugene
TITLE: Birthday Presents
ILLUSTRATOR: Eugene Fern
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: iv. (unpaged)
PUBLISHER: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York, NY (1967).

BRIEF SUMMARY: This story is about a birthday present which did not come wrapped in paper and tied with a ribbon. It could not be seen or handled at all. Joseph's grandfather taught him a song which he, in turn, taught to many people.

AUTHOR: Fleischman, Si
TITLE: The Wooden Cat Man
ILLUSTRATOR: Jay Yang
AGES: 5-9
PAGES: 48
PUBLISHER: Little Brown & Co., Boston, MA (1972).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Miss Singsong knows her grandfather is an artist, a great maker of kites. In 1913, a young girl and her grandfather enter the contest held to determine whose kite best duplicates the "thing in the sky", which is an airplane that landed near the village. They share love and mutual respect, cleverness and joy.

AUTHOR: Flora, James
TITLE: Grandpa's Ghost Stories
ILLUSTRATOR: James Flora
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Atheneum, New York, NY (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: During a violent electrical storm, a small boy sits on his grandfather's lap and listens to scary tales about a hungry skeleton, a horrible witch, big furry spiders, hideous ghosts and werewolves.

AUTHOR: Flora, James
TITLE: Grandpa's Witched-up Christmas
ILLUSTRATOR: James Flora
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Atheneum, New York, NY (1982).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Grandpa tells the year he almost missed Christmas because some witches turned him into a pig. A humorous book to read.

AUTHOR: Gauch, Patricia Lee
TITLE: Grandpa and Me
ILLUSTRATOR: Symeon Shimin
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, New York, NY
(1972).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A boy and his grandfather share
leisurely, pleasant experiences during
summer time at the lake. Each person
thinks the other is very special.

AUTHOR: Godden, Rumer
TITLE: The Fairy Doll
ILLUSTRATOR: Adrienne Adams
AGES: 7-9
PAGES: 67
PUBLISHER: Viking Press, New York, NY (1956).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Elizabeth, the youngest of four children, is short, fat, clumsy, and sometimes naughty. Great-grandmother gives her a fairy doll to help her. Elizabeth makes the discovery which great-grandmother knew she would.

AUTHOR: Goffstein, M. B.
TITLE: Fish for Supper
ILLUSTRATOR: M. B. Goffstein
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 31
PUBLISHER: Dial Press, New York, NY. (1976).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Grandmother gets up at five in the morning, has her breakfast, does the dishes fast, fast, fast and then gets in her boat and rows out on the water where she fishes all day. After a supper of fish, hot rolls and tea she again does the dishes fast, fast, fast and hurries to bed so that she can get up at five the next morning and go fishing again. This book describes grandmother and a typical day of fishing.

AUTHOR: Goffstein, M. B.
TITLE: Two Piano Tuners
ILLUSTRATOR: M. B. Goffstein
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 72
PUBLISHER: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. New York, NY
(1977).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Debbie Weinstock lives with her grandfather who is a piano tuner. He wants her to be a great pianist but she wants to be just like him - a good man and the best piano tuner in the world. A simple appearing tale which touches basic feelings with great naturalness.

AUTHOR: Goldman, Susan
TITLE: Grandpa and Me Together
ILLUSTRATOR: Susan Goldman
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Whitman & Co., Niles, IL. (1980).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Katherine, about six, is visiting her grandparents. Today, while Grandma attends an art show, Katherine will have Grandpa all to herself. As always, Grandpa has planned special things for them to do together. This time they will stop at the store where Grandpa used to work and then go to a baseball game. At the store, while Grandpa helps solve a problem in the shipping department, Katherine types him a letter that says, "I love you, Grandpa." At the baseball game, Grandpa gives Katherine money to pay for the tickets and to buy their hot dogs and peanuts. On the way home the two sing Grandpa's old college song. Grandpa does special things for Katherine throughout the day. That night, as he and Grandma give the little girl her bath, Grandpa even powders Katherine's toes.

AUTHOR: Goldman, Susan
TITLE: Grandma Is Somebody Special
ILLUSTRATOR: Susan Goldman
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Whitman & Co., Niles, IL (1976).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A young girl enjoys visiting her grandmother in a tall apartment building in a big city. The grandmother shows a wide range of behaviors. She works, goes to school, tends house, and does some very interesting things with her granddaughter. The special things that the two do together make this a very enjoyable and enlightening book.

AUTHOR: Grifalconi, Ann
TITLE: The Village of Round and Square Houses
ILLUSTRATOR: Ann Grifalconi
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Little, Brown. New York, NY (1986).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A young girl in a small village in Central Africa listens to Gran'ma Tika tell the story of how men came to live in square houses, while the women live in round houses. "Each one has a place to be apart, and a time to be together...." says Gran'ma. Respect for the wisdom and experience of elders figures prominently.

AUTHOR: Henkes, Kevin
TITLE: Grandpa and Bo
ILLUSTRATOR: Kevin Henkes
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Greenwillow. West Caldwell, NY (1986).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Young Bo spends the summer on his grandfather's farm, sharing activities that are important to both of them - fishing, taking walks, telling stories, playing ball and even -- because they can only be together once a year -- Christmas.

AUTHOR: Hest, Amy
TITLE: The Crack-of-Dawn Walkers
ILLUSTRATOR: Amy Schwartz
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: MacMillan & Co., New York, NY (1984).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Every other Sunday, Sadie and her grandfather go for their special early morning walks together. Sadie delights in this special time together with her grandfather. They talk about the "old country", stop at a bake shop and sip cocoa. Later, as others rise from their beds, they notice the two very different size sets of tracks left by the "crack-of-dawn" walkers. Sadie enjoys her morning walks with her grandfather because it is the only time when she has him all to herself and does not have to share him with her brother, Ben.

AUTHOR: Hooker, Ruth
TITLE: At Grandma and Grandpa's House
ILLUSTRATOR: Ruth Rosner
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Whitman & Co., Niles, IL (1986).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A visit to Grandma and Grandpa's house is almost an adventure as recounted by the narrator, who catalogs an unending stream of fun things that make the house special. The loving feelings are what will count to young audiences, who will appreciate this the most.

AUTHOR: Hurd, Edith Thacher
TITLE: I Dance in My Red Pajamas
ILLUSTRATOR: Emily Arnold McCully
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Harper & Row, New York, NY. (1982).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Young Jenny's parents warn her not to be loud or boisterous at her grandparents' house when she goes for an overnight visit. Jenny promises but smiles secretly, remembering the lively times she has shared with her grandparents. When she arrives with her red pajamas, toothbrush, and Lion, she is loudly greeted by Grandpa and hugged by Granny. Right away, Grandpa grabs Jenny and she sings as he twirls her around in their familiar whirling game. When she stops, she wobbles and falls into Granny's lap. Then Jenny helps her grandfather build an outside house for Catarina, Granny's big cat. Later, Jenny helps fix supper and set the table. She and her grandfather chuckle at their messy faces after eating the blueberry pie. When the dishes are done, Granny runs Jenny's bath in the big claw-footed tub. Jenny has a grand time splashing and swimming. Then, dressed in her red pajamas, she helps her grandfather bring in firewood. Jenny sits on the floor with Lion and Catarina and watches the fire. Then Granny begins to play the piano softly and Jenny dances. Soon she and her grandfather are clapping, stomping, and dancing as her grandmother plays louder and yells out square-dancing calls. Humming their tunes, her grandparents dance together. Grandpa gives Jenny a piggyback ride upstairs and, after Granny tucks her and Lion in, he says, "Oh, what a beautiful, lovely, noisy day."

AUTHOR: Johnston, Tony
TITLE: The Vanishing Pumpkin
ILLUSTRATOR: Tomie dePaola
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Putnam, New York, NY. (1983).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A 700-year-old woman and an 800-year-old man, both witches, go searching on Halloween night for the pumpkin someone snatched from them, only to find it under the hat of a wizard.

This book is fast-paced, appealing and delightful.

AUTHOR: Kay, Helen
TITLE: A Stocking for a Kitten
ILLUSTRATOR: Yaroslava
AGES: 6-9
PAGES: 42
PUBLISHER: Abelard-Schuman, New York, NY (1965).

BRIEF SUMMARY: This is a heartening tale of a grandmother's love and how, in her own way, she teaches her granddaughter an important lesson in forgiveness.

AUTHOR: Keats, Extra Jack
TITLE: Apt. 3
ILLUSTRATOR: Extra Keats
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 38
PUBLISHER: MacMillan Co., Riverside, NJ (1973).

BRIEF SUMMARY: When Sam and Ben search for the source of harmonica music in their apartment building, they make a new friend, the older blind man in Apt. 3.

AUTHOR: Kessler, Ethel and Leonard
TITLE: Grandpa Witch and the Magic Doobelator
ILLUSTRATOR: Ethel & Leonard Keesler
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 56
PUBLISHER: MacMillan & Co., New York, NY (1981).

BRIEF SUMMARY: When Grandpa teaches his grandchildren, Willy and Wanda, some magic tricks for Halloween, his problems with magic began to multiple. He teaches them chants to make doors fly open, windows rattle and how to fly. All goes well until Grandpa shows them his magic doobelator machine which makes two of everything that drops into it. As Wanda and Willy climb on a stool to peek in, the two little witches slide out of sight. Instead of two witches coming out, four little witches appear - two of Wanda and two of Willy. All ends happily, since each always wanted a brother and sister and Grandpa always wanted more grandchildren.

AUTHOR: Kesselman, Wendy Ann
TITLE: Emma
ILLUSTRATOR: Wendy Ann Kesselman
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Doubleday, New York, NY (1980).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Motivated by a birthday gift, a 72 year old woman begins to paint. This book illustrates the creativity of the elderly.

AUTHOR: Khalsa, Dayal Kaur
TITLE: Tales of a Gambling Grandma
ILLUSTRATOR: Dayal Kaur Khalsa
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Clarkson N. Potter. New York, NY (1986).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A child's account of her grandmother's life, based on her own observations and her grandma's exaggerations and elaborately embroidered memories. Grandma's unique and delightful character is marvelously portrayed with a skillful use of point of view, giving her a depth of character.

AUTHOR: Knotts, Howard
TITLE: Great-Grandfather, the Baby and Me
ILLUSTRATOR: Howard Knotts
AGES: 7-9
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Atheneum, New York, NY (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: This great-grandfather's reminiscence about traveling for miles across sparsely settled Canadian prairie to see a new baby. He helps a young boy come to grips with his own apprehension about meeting his baby sister.

AUTHOR: Kumin, Maxie
TITLE: When Grandmother was Young
ILLUSTRATOR: Don Almquist
AGES: 7-9
PAGES: 64
PUBLISHER: Putnam, New York, NY (1969).

BRIEF SUMMARY: When grandmother Kate was a little girl in Boston in the 1920's, life was typified by pushcarts, market days, ice wagons and Mother's determination to cut her hair, shorten her skirts and vote for President.

This book inspires children and teaches them to ask questions of their grandparents and older acquaintances. Excellent drawings add to the authenticity and charm of this book.

AUTHOR: Langner, Nola
TITLE: Freddy My Grandfather
ILLUSTRATOR: Nola Langner
AGES: 7-9
PAGES: 26
PUBLISHER: Four Winds Press, New York, NY. (1979).

BRIEF SUMMARY: As if one friend were talking to another, Freddy's granddaughter tries to explain what it is that makes Freddy so special. She even has a picture he drew to show Hungary, where he was born.

Freddy's English sounds a little different. He says "I now it" for "I know it". He draws, sews, smokes cigars, stays out late and is learning to speak Spanish. He has a special friend, Mrs. Klug, who owns Madame Klug's Girdle Shop.

This book describes someone who is always uniquely himself and a tribute to an understanding of mutual love.

AUTHOR: Lapp, Eleanor, J.
TITLE: In the Morning Mist
ILLUSTRATOR: David Cunningham
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: unpagged
PUBLISHER: Whitman, Niles, IL (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: It is early morning and a little boy and his grandfather are going fishing. As they walk along the old logging trail they find all the familiar animals and scenes are shrouded in a soft, still mist.

AUTHOR: Lasky, Kathryn
TITLE: I Have Four Names For My Grandfather
ILLUSTRATOR: Christopher Knight
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 46
PUBLISHER: Little, Brown, New York, NY. (1976).

BRIEF SUMMARY: With a grandfather you can go on a trip, help plant a flower, run, read a book, go fishing and know someone who loves you. Told in simple language and expressive black and white photographs, this book in first person text tells of the good times and the warm relationship Tom shares with his grandfather.

AUTHOR: Lasky, Kathryn
TITLE: My Island Grandma
ILLUSTRATOR: Emily Arnold McCully
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Frederick Warne & Co., New York, NY. (1979).

BRIEF SUMMARY: After Abbey's father closes his classroom for the year and her mother changes her winter paints for a box full of summer colors, they all leave together for their special island hideaway. Waiting on the dock with a wheelbarrow to carry their luggage is Abbey's grandmother. Grandma's cabin is over on the sea side of the island, connected to their side by a mossy path that cuts through a pine forest. Every day Abbey runs barefoot over the soft path to join her grandmother for some new adventure. Sometimes, early in the morning, the two of them go swimming in "dark sea pools." Afterwards, they wrap themselves in towels and sit on a "million-year-old rock" to talk. On their way home Grandma often picks sea herbs to put in salads or gathers periwinkles to make soup. Abbey hates both these foods, but she loves to eat the blueberries they pick in the afternoon. Sometimes Abbey and Grandma go sailing. If there are lots of big, fluffy clouds in the sky, they tell cloud stories. On rainy days Abbey and her grandmother stay inside and make moss gardens and cookies. Sometimes when Abbey is asleep in the special sleeping bag Grandma made her, Grandma uses her soft night voice to wake her up and direct her outside to look at the starry sky. At the end of the summer they all return to the city.

AUTHOR: Laurin, Anne
TITLE: Little Things
ILLUSTRATOR: Marcia Sewall
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 31
PUBLISHER: Atheneum, New York, NY. (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Little things never seemed to bother Mr. B. until he amiably tries to accustom himself to the inconveniences presented by his wife's ever growing blanket she sews. The blanket eventually spreads out from the house, to the barn, to the garden and covers the mill. All things come to an end with Mr. B's patience. Little things eventually grow into a big thing which call for strong measures.

AUTHOR: Lenski, Lois
TITLE: Debbie and her Grandma
ILLUSTRATOR: Lois Lenski
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 48
PUBLISHER: Walck, Inc., New York, NY (1967).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Debbie, about five years old, visits her grandma and participates in her very active day. They have a fine time together and it's such fun "to go visiting alone."

AUTHOR: Lexau, Joan M.
TITLE: Benji
ILLUSTRATOR: Don Bolognese
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 38
PUBLISHER: Dial Books. New York, NY (1964).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Benji and his grandmother live in one room of a large apartment building. He is painfully shy, but when he needs to help his grandmother find her lost earring, he overcomes shyness with determination. Her pride in and love for him are plain and simple and understandable to young children.

AUTHOR: Lhohof, Jan
TITLE: My Grandpa is a Pirate
ILLUSTRATOR: Translated from the Danish by
Else Holmelund Minarik
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 48
PUBLISHER: Harper & Row, Inc., New York, NY (1968).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Grandpa has pirate clothes in the attic
and he says he used to be a pirate.
Grandma doesn't believe a word of it.
But what happens to grandpa and his
grandson are sure to make one wonder.

AUTHOR: Locker, Thomas
TITLE: Where The River Begins
ILLUSTRATOR: Thomas Locker
AGES: 7-9
PAGES: 27
PUBLISHER: Dial Books, New York, NY. (1984).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Two young boys and their grandfather go on a camping trip to find the source of the river that flows by their home. In majestic landscape paintings, Thomas Locker takes readers along the boys' journey with their grandfather to find the answer.

This book shows warm companionship and love between a man and his grandsons.

AUTHOR: MacLachlan, Patricia
TITLE: Through Grandpa's Eyes
ILLUSTRATOR: Deborah Ray
AGES: 7-9
PAGES: 40
PUBLISHER: Harper & Row, New York, NY (1979).

BRIEF SUMMARY: John loves Grandpa's house the best because he learns to see it through his Grandpa's eyes. Grandpa is blind, but he has his own way of seeing.

John learns a different way of seeing the world from his blind grandfather.

AUTHOR: McCloskey, Robert
TITLE: Burt Dow: Deep Water Man
ILLUSTRATOR: Robert McCloskey
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 61
PUBLISHER: Viking Press, New York, NY (1963).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Burt Dow is a retired fisherman.
He is a vigorous man who takes on
all problems imaginatively and with
good humor. This is a tale of the
sea in the classic tradition.

AUTHOR: Meeks, Esther M.
TITLE: Jeff and Mr. James' Pond
ILLUSTRATOR: Paul Galdone
AGES: 6-9
PAGES: 35
PUBLISHER: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, New York, NY
(1962).

BRIEF SUMMARY: This is the story of Jeff, a small boy, who has many friends, some little, some his own age, but also some big friends. Mr. James is a big friend who lives on an adjoining farm and is always happy to see him.

This story presents a highly positive image of intergenerational relationships, quite aside from immediate family ties.

AUTHOR: Moore, Elaine
TITLE: Grandma's House
ILLUSTRATOR: Elise Primavera
AGES: 4-7
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. West Caldwell, NJ
(1985).

BRIEF SUMMARY: For Kim, summer is a special time that she shares every year with her grandmother, a lively, loving woman who wears jeans and drives a pickup truck. Lush green watercolor paintings evoke the mood of long, calm, relaxing summer days.

AUTHOR: Newman, Shirlee Petkin
TITLE: Tell Me Grandma, Tell Me Grandpa
ILLUSTRATOR: Joan Drescher
AGES: 5-9
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Mass (1979).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A young girl with an impish imagination curls up with her grandparents and asks them to tell about the time when her mother and father were young. She turns her imagination loose. The results are hilarious.

AUTHOR: Oppenheim, Shulamith
TITLE: A Trio for Grandpa-pa
ILLUSTRATOR: Gioia Fiammenghi
AGES: 7-9
PAGES: 40
PUBLISHER: Thomas Y. Crowell, New York, NY (1974).

BRIEF SUMMARY: While exploring an old castle, three Austrian children find a violin, a violia, and a cello. They take them home to their grandfather, who explains the origins of the instruments. The elderly character is knowledgeable.

AUTHOR: Oxenburg, Helen
TITLE: Grandma and Grandpa
ILLUSTRATOR: Helen Oxenburg
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 20
PUBLISHER: Dial Books. New York, NY (1984).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A small girl tells about all the good times that she has during her weekly visits to her grandparents house. Illustrates a warm and loving relationship between grandparents and grandchildren.

AUTHOR: Palay, Steven
TITLE: I Love My Grandma
ILLUSTRATOR: Brent Jones
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Raintree, Milwaukee, WI. (1977).

BRIEF SUMMARY: An unnamed young girl lives with her parents and grandmother, but when her parents are out during the day, the grandmother picks her up at school and takes her to the playground to play. Sometimes they visit Mrs. Daniels, who has a nice garden and often gives them flowers. Other times, they'll go to the park with Grandma's friend Mr. James and his dog, Alf. The girl says, "I can tell my grandma anything. She always understands. I love my grandma, and she loves me."

The little girl has fun with her grandmother and learns from her, too. They understand and love each other. The girl feels at ease as well with her grandmother's older friends.

AUTHOR: Parish, Peggy
TITLE: Granny, the Baby, and the Big Gray Thing
ILLUSTRATOR: Lynn Sweat
AGES: 7-8
PAGES: 40
PUBLISHER: MacMillan & Co., New York, NY. (1972).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Granny is walking through the woods one day and she sees a baby hanging from a tree. She takes the baby home, but on the way she sees a big, gray thing. Granny thinks it's a big dog, but it's really a wolf. She then ties her apron around its' neck and takes both of them home. The Indians, whom the baby belongs to, sees this and runs back to camp to tell the others that Granny was "at it again." In this book, Granny still has a gun that doesn't shoot. When the Indians arrive at Granny's house they shout that the wolf is going to eat the baby. She then realizes it is a wolf. She grabs her gun and whomps Ada, the name she gave to the wolf, on the head. She returns the baby and gives advice about leaving a baby hanging in a tree. The wolf is taken back to where it belongs. Granny Guntry saves the baby.

AUTHOR: Parish, Peggy
TITLE: Granny and the Desperadoes
ILLUSTRATOR: Steven Kellogg
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 40
PUBLISHER: MacMillan, New York, NY. (1970).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Granny, who in an earlier story was too much for the Indians, captures two wanted desperadoes with her gun that doesn't shoot the time the local sheriff arrives. Granny has forced the bandits to help with the household chores, repair the roof and provide a supply of meat and eggs. Both the text and illustrations tell the story with action and humor.

AUTHOR: Parish, Peggy
TITLE: Granny and the Indians
ILLUSTRATOR: Brinton Turkle
AGES: 6-9
PAGES: 39
PUBLISHER: MacMillan, New York, NY. (1968).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Granny Gentry proves such a menace to the Indians that they promise to bring her food every day if she will just stay out of their forest. Granny lives alone in the woods and provides for herself.

AUTHOR: Pomerantz, Charlotte
TITLE: Buffy and Albert
ILLUSTRATOR: Yosi Abolasia
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 48
PUBLISHER: Greenwillow. New York, NY (1982).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Grandfather is portrayed as an active and intelligent person. The story talks extensively about grandfather's cats (Buffy and Albert) who are getting to be quite old, grandpa's three children--one of which is the children's father, and his grandchildren. Grandpa "remembers" when he was younger. He compares earlier family times to now. He tells the children how now the house is quiet, and he likes that--it gives him time to read and carve things out of wood. Grandpa twists an ankle and must stay off it for a while. The children and grandchildren take turns taking care of grandpa with his twisted ankle and enjoy it. After a week of recovery grandpa was back to being independent. An excellent and multi-dimensional story of an older person and his family.

AUTHOR: Scheffler, Urse1
TITLE: A Walk in the Rain
ILLUSTRATOR: Ulises Wense11
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Putnam, New York, NY. (1986).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Josh can't wait to try out his bright new yellow raincoat and matching hat, and his shiny rubber boots. Especially when he gets to go for a walk in the rain with Grandmother. Soon, they're splashing through puddles, exploring nearby woods, counting sprouting mushrooms and doing lots of fun rainy-day things. And when they return home, there's even more fun in store.

AUTHOR: Schick, Eleanor
TITLE: City in the Winter
ILLUSTRATOR: Eleanor Schick
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: MacMillan & Co., Riverside, NJ (1970).

BRIEF SUMMARY: When a blizzard closes school for the day, Jimmy finds many things to do in his city apartment. His grandma is with him the day they are snowed in and helps to make it a special, rather than a frightening, time.

AUTHOR: Skorpen, Liesel Moak
TITLE: Mandy's Grandmother
ILLUSTRATOR: Martha Alexander
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Dial Press, New York, NY (1975).

BRIEF SUMMARY: At a first meeting, Mandy and her grandmother are a disappointment to each other as neither is quite sure of what the other expected. When grandmother comes to visit, Mandy finds that she likes girls to wear dresses and play with dolls. She does not like toads and forts in bedrooms. Grandmother and Mandy resolve their problems very quickly.

AUTHOR: Stevenson, James
TITLE: Could Be Worse
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stevenson
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 29
PUBLISHER: Greenwillow Books, West Caldwell, NJ. (1977).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Everything is always the same at Grandpa's house, even the things he says. When the dog eats the sofa cushion, Mary Ann's kite gets lost or Louis gets a splinter in his finger - Grandpa each time replies, "could be worse."

One morning Grandpa hears the two children saying that he never says anything because nothing interesting probably happens to him. So the next morning at breakfast Grandpa says something different - really different.

Grandpa elaborates on the most preposterous, imaginative dream that devastates the children. After telling of his great adventure, he asks the children what they think - which they reply, "could be worse!"

AUTHOR: Stevenson, James
TITLE: The Worst Person in the World
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stevenson
AGES: 5-9
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Greenwillow, West Caldwell, NJ (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A grouchy old man who lives in a run down house and hates children satirizes those stereotypes and arouses disgust in the reader. However, one day he meets the ugliest thing in the world and things begin to change in the old man's life. This is a very humorous and witty book.

AUTHOR: Stevenson, James
TITLE: What's Under My Bed
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stevenson
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Greenwillow, West Caldwell, NJ (1983).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Mary Ann and Louie were staying with Grandpa. They were afraid of something they thought was under their bed at night. They go downstairs to tell Grandpa and he tells them a story about his own childhood when he was scared at bedtime that helps them to see through their own fears.

AUTHOR: Williams, Barbara
TITLE: Kevin's Grandma
ILLUSTRATOR: Kay Chorao
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 27
PUBLISHER: Dutton & Co., New York, NY. (1975).

BRIEF SUMMARY: There's nothing like a grandmother - and no grandmother like Kevins! She comes to see him when he's sick, but doesn't bring crayons and coloring books and cartons of ice cream. She dashes up on a motorcycle with Mad magazine and peanut butter soup. She also gives judo lessons, drinks tiger's milk, scuba dives, and does many other wild and wonderful things.

AUTHOR: Wood, Joyce
TITLE: Grandmother Lucy and her Hats
ILLUSTRATOR: Frank Francis
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 31
PUBLISHER: Atheneum, New York, NY (1969).

BRIEF SUMMARY: Grandmother Lucy's attic was a fascinating place. It is especially fascinating when she goes to air her hats and gives her granddaughter a surprise from the old trunk.

AUTHOR: Yolen, Jane
TITLE: No Bath Tonight
ILLUSTRATOR: Nancy Winslow Parker
AGES: 6-8
PAGES: 32
PUBLISHER: Crowell, New York, NY. (1978).

BRIEF SUMMARY: A small boy refuses to take a bath until his grandmother uses her imagination and shows him how to make kid tea.

AUTHOR: Zolotow, Charlotte
TITLE: I Know a Lady
ILLUSTRATOR: James Stevenson
AGES: 5-8
PAGES: 24
PUBLISHER: Greenwillow, West Caldwell, NJ (1984)

BRIEF SUMMARY: An old woman who lives by herself in a house down the block is described by a neighbor child who sees her gardening, feeding the birds and waving at passers-by. She makes the neighborhood kids feel special by always finding the time to talk, share small gifts or just smile. She is someone always remembered and loved.

AUTHOR: Zolotow, Charlotte
TITLE: William's Doll
ILLUSTRATOR: William Paene DuBois
AGES: 5-7
PAGES: 30
PUBLISHER: Harper & Row, New York, NY (1972).

BRIEF SUMMARY: William wanted a doll, but instead he got a basketball and a train set. Grandmother does not think that boys with dolls are sissies. She gets him a doll so when he grows up he will know how to be a good father.

SHORT STORIES

Anonymous. "Grandpa and the Tin Lizzie," in ALL SORTS OF THINGS, Boston: Ginn, 1969, pp. 236-250.

Grandpa's mind was made up. He was going to buy an automobile! Times were changing. He felt that he wanted to keep up with the times, so he was going to buy a model-T Ford, or, as it was called, a "tin Lizzie." He and his granddaughter Emily have some hilarious and exciting adventures. (3-4)

Anonymous. "The Mystery of the Suitcase," in HOW IT IS NOWADAYS, Boston: Ginn, 1969, pp. 80-87.

Charles and Mrs. Emory became good friends. He liked to sit on the steps outside her door and watch her make cookies. Where she went every week with the cookies was a mystery. Charles becomes very concerned when she disappears overnight with her suitcase and does not return. Charles gets help in solving the mystery and learns about Mrs. Emory. Illustrations, however, are stereotyped. (2-4)

Behrens, June. "Soo Ling Finds A Way," in SIGNPOSTS, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1971, pp. 29-35.

Soo Ling finds a way to help her grandfather's hand laundry business when a laundromat opens across the street. Stereotyping is present, but grandfather is active and employed. (1-2)

Copeland, Helen. "Meet Mike Takino," in REWARDS, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1971, pp. 189-198.
"Meet Mike Takins," in THE WIDE HORIZONS READERS, BOOK I, Chicago: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1966, pp. 60-69.

A Japanese-American boy, who has no living grandparents, needs a substitute for the first grade school party honoring grandparents. He succeeds in getting five older people to become his adopted grandparents. They all show up at the party and Mike receives special recognition, along with his adopted grandparents. (1-3)

Dollard, Sandol. "Growing Time," in ENDINGS, New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1975, pp. 144-157;
"Growing Time," in FULL CIRCLE, New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1980, pp. 328-353.

When Jamie's dog King dies, he is very sad. After talking to his Granny he comes to understand how King's spirit is still with him. Granny is shown to be a wise and well-developed character. This is an appealing and touching story! (3-4)

Green, Phyllis. "The Fastest Quitter in Town," in STAND TALL, New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1975, pp. 110-125.

Great-grandfather lives with Johnny's grandfather and grandmother. He does not see well anymore, but he is fun to be with, and he helps Johnny learn not to quit when things are not going his way. (2)

Horvath, Betty. "Jasper Makes Music," in SECRETS, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1971, pp. 182-192.

While cleaning a storage room with his grandfather, Jasper finds a snow shovel. Grandfather tells him that it is a magic shovel that he gave to Jasper's father when he was a boy. Grandfather goes on to explain that part of the magic is up to the weather, and part is up to the one who owns it. Jasper now understands that he has a way to get the guitar that he wants. (2)

Newell, Hope. THE LITTLE OLD WOMAN WHO USED HER HEAD AND OTHER STORIES, Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1973.

Nineteen humorous stories are told about the adventures of the little old woman who had many problems to solve, such as keeping her geese warm during the winter while taking their feathers for a feather bed. (1-3)

Work, R.O. "Mr. Dawson and the Kite," in ENCHANTED GATES, New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1970, pp. 138-151.

This is a three-part story. In the first part, the humorous complications that result from Mr. Dawson's attempt to fly a kite to which a key has been attached are described. The second and third parts concern Mr. Dawson's efforts to locate his wife who has disappeared and to solve the mystery of who is knocking.