



Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

By Mem Fox, Illustrated by Julie Vivas

Discussion questions after reading

Introduce the word "elderly" as the appropriate word to use when referring to "old people."

- Does anyone know what an "old people's" home is? Has anyone ever visited one?
- Why do the elderly find children so endearing?
- What kinds of things can you do for the elderly? Does anyone have elderly neighbors? How can you be their friend?
- What items/keepsakes do you have that remind you of something from long ago? Something that make you sad? Something that makes you laugh? Something that is as precious as gold? (You should share your own memories with the children.)

Activities

- Have each student write a letter to a resident at a retirement home near your school. (If there are computers available, have the children type their letters so they will be easier for the residents to read.) They could tell the residents that their teacher just read them this book and then share some of their own memories/keepsakes. They could share something about their own grandparents or greatgrandparents. They could ask questions. Have them draw a picture. (Let the children decide what to draw.)
- Take a field trip to the retirement home and hand deliver the letters, or if it is the holiday season, go there and sing holiday songs to the residents!
- Have students bring in actual keepsakes from home and share what the special memory is.
- Later, perhaps the following week and the weeks thereafter, repeat the activity with a new word, until eventually you've added all 30 words. Each week, review the previous words.