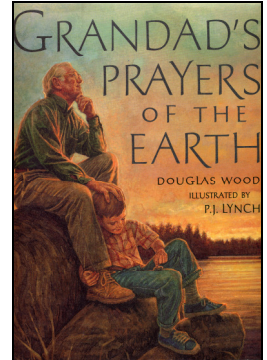


Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide



Title: *Grandad's Prayers of the Earth*

Author: Douglas Wood

Illustrator: P.J. Lynch

Publisher and Copyright Date: Candlewick Press, 1999

Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author

Summary: This is a story in which a young boy learns about nature and prayer as he walks in the woods with his grandfather. After his grandfather's death, he remembers what he learned and understands what his grandfather taught him.

Suggested ages: 7-10, all ages

Tips for Reading:

- Create a quiet atmosphere for this read-aloud, if possible.
- Have children close their eyes for some of the story, perhaps when "Bending down to a smell a flower..." pages come.

Questions before reading:

- Do you have a grandparent or other special relative or friend that you like to spend time with? Does that person ever tell you things that you don't fully understand?
- Do you like to go for walks and just think about things?
- Do you pray sometimes and wonder if your prayer will be answered?
- Do you think trees can pray?

To Introduce this story say: This is a story about a boy's walks in the woods with his grandpa, who tells him that trees and all of nature pray.

Questions After Reading:

- Do you have some special memories of your grandparents, whether they are living or not?
- Do you ever ask your grandparents questions about things that you wonder about in life?
- Do you have a favorite prayer that you like to say?
- Do you have a special place where you like to just sit and think about life?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art:**
- Draw a picture of something from nature that reminds you of someone you love.
- Writing:**
- Write a prayer, or your hopes and dreams for the future. This can be either just for yourself or for sharing with the group.
 - Write about a favorite memory of a family member.
- Other:**
- Go for a walk outside somewhere quiet and peaceful, either by yourself or with a special relative or friend, to think about life. If you go with another person, you may choose to share your thoughts (and prayers) with that person.
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Talk about prayer and praying in different cultures and religions.
 - Talk about death rituals in different cultures.
- Related Books:**
- ***The Circle of Days*** by Reeve Lindbergh, illustrated by Cathie Felstead (Candlewick, 1997)
 - ***God be in My Heart*** by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton (Boyd's Mills Press, 1999)
 - ***Home Sweet Home*** by Jean Marzollo, illustrated by Ashley Wolff (HarperCollins, 1997)
 - ***Lighthouse: a Story of Remembrance*** by Robert Munsch, illustrated by Janet Wilson (Scholastic Cartwheel, 2003)
 - ***Sun and Spoon*** by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow Books, 1997)
 - ***The Next Place*** by Warren Hanson (Waldman House, 1997)

