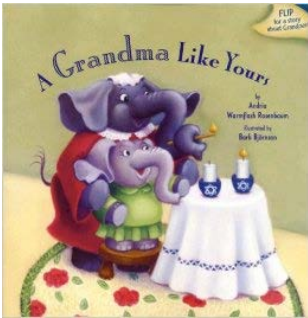




Book Based Family Program

Family Love Stories: Books that Focus on Love of Grandparents

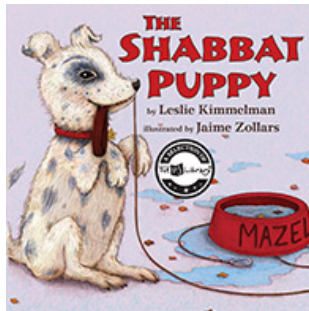


A Grandma/Grandpa Like Yours

By: Andrea Warmflash Rosenbaum

Illustrated by: Barb Bjornson

Age group: 1-4

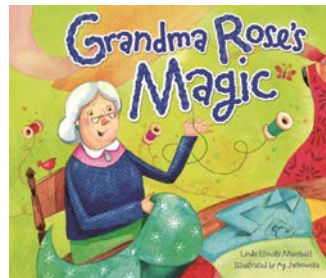


The Shabbat Puppy

By: Leslie Kimmelman

Illustrated by: Jaime Zollars

Age group: 3-6



Grandma Rose's Magic

By: Linda Elovitz Marshall

Illustrated by: Ag Jatkowska

Age group: 5-8

Synopses

A Grandma/Grandpa Like Yours

Using whimsical animal illustrations, this two-sided rhyming book depicts the joy that grandparents and grandchildren experience as they celebrate important Jewish and everyday moments together. Side one, *A Grandma Like Yours*, shows grandmas, bubbes, savtas, and nanas lighting Shabbat candles, playing catch, delivering shalach manot baskets, and sharing other special moments with one another. Side two, *A Grandpa Like Yours*, portrays grandchildren interacting with their grandpas, zaydes, and sabas in equally meaningful day-to-day and holiday tasks such as reading together, making matzah, and planting trees for Tu B'shevat.

The Shabbat Puppy

Every Saturday morning, Noah and Grampa celebrate Shabbat by taking a walk together, pausing to appreciate the numerous wonders of nature. Each time they spot one of nature's small miracles – a fluttering butterfly, dancing autumn leaves, softly falling snowflakes – Grampa and Noah note that they have found "Shabbat Shalom." Noah wishes to share their Shabbat strolls with his rambunctious puppy Mazel, but Grampa fears that Mazel might spoil the tranquility of their outings. When Mazel is a year old (and has outgrown some of his feistiness), Grampa allows Mazel to join them. To Noah's joy, Mazel leads them to a new and unexpected moment of Shabbat Shalom.

Grandma Rose's Magic

Grandma Rose makes magic – both for her own grandchildren and for anyone who is in need of her sewing services. Every time Grandma Rose sews, she stitches a little something extra (rose-shaped buttons, a monogram, a flower) into her work. When the recipients notice Grandma's thoughtful additions, Grandma declares that these extras must have been produced by "magic." Grandma informs her granddaughter Julie that she is saving her money to buy a special set of dishes – ones that look just like the Shabbat dishes her grandmother used. But when Grandma goes to the department store to purchase her dishes, she discovers that dishes have all been sold. When Grandma disappointedly returns home, she is surprised to find all of her customers, friends, and family gathered together, each holding a piece of the coveted dish set.

Goals

While each of these books focuses on a slightly different aspect of familial love, each can serve as a wonderful jumping-off point for an exploration of the topic of love with a specific focus on "love of grandparents." This program guide presents an array of discussion questions and activities that will:

- Help children recognize and identify the deep bonds of love that connect them to their grandparents.
- Introduce children to effective techniques for expressing love, honor, and gratitude towards their grandparents.
- Enrich conversations and create new lasting memories for both children and grandparents.

Submitted by

Vivian Newman- Vivian@hgf.org

Choose the activities

Program Note: This program can be designed as a program that children will attend with their grandparent(s) or it may be held as a program that children can attend accompanied by any adult. Participants should be told in advance that during the course of the program children will be making “gifts/projects” for their grandparent(s) or special adult.

Choose 2 – 4 activities:

1-2 projects for introductory activities and 1-2 projects for follow-up activities.

Heart-to-Heart (Partner-Finding Activities)

Project Description: If you’d like to **increase interaction between families**, lead with one of the Heart-to-Heart activities. We recommend that you choose one the two partner-finding activities listed below, based on the ages of the children who will be participating in your program. These activities work best in conjunction with another activity (i.e., distribute Heart-to-Heart materials while a different project is being worked on).

Intro:

“As we think about love and the ways in which grandparents and grandmothers love one another, we thought it might be fun to meet another family and compare love notes with them. As you were working on your project, we passed out one half of a colorful heart to each family. Your job is to find the family who has the matching half.”

Heart-to-Heart Scavenger Hunt

Recommended for: ages 1 and up

Materials Needed:

- Paper with different colors and patterns

Advanced Preparations:

- Cut out large hearts using different kinds of paper.
- Cut the large hearts in half.
- Cut 6-8 miniature hearts to match each large heart.
- Place small hearts around the room (in easy-to-find spots).



Intro:

“Now that you’ve found the family with the matching half of your heart, work together as a team to see how many small hearts you can find that match your large heart. Once you’ve collected and counted your small hearts, give your grandparents the same number of hugs and/or kisses as the number of hearts that you found.”

Heart-to-Heart “Love Thoughts” Questionnaire

Recommended for: ages 5-8

Materials Needed:

- Copies of “Love Thoughts” questionnaire (attached)
- Pencils/Pens for completing questionnaire

Advanced Preparations

- Print copies of questionnaire

Intro:

“Once you’ve found your partner, find a place to sit. Spend a few minutes completing the questionnaire with the help of a parent. Once you’ve finished the questionnaire, share some of your answers with your partner.”

Picture-Perfect Love

Project Description: Children decorate picture frames and attach love notes to the frame. If desired, children can decorate their frame with blank puzzle pieces. For the puzzle frame option, children can attach a puzzle piece that says “Reasons why I love _____ ‘to pieces.’”

Recommended for: ages 1 and up

Materials Needed:

- Frame (made from poster board, craft foam, or heavy construction paper)
- Glue sticks or glue, bowls, and Q-tips
- Foam or construction paper shapes (or blank puzzle pieces) for families to write notes
- Markers
- Gems, stickers, sequins (or any other types of decoration)
- Optional: color printer

Advanced Preparations:

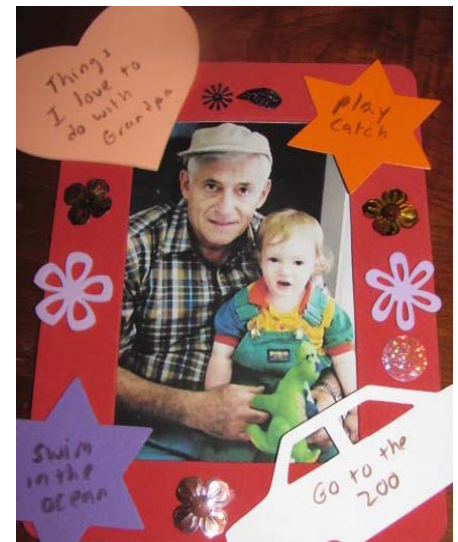
- Cut out frames and shapes that can be used for love notes
- Ask families to bring in a photo showing a child with one grandparent (preferably the grandparent who will be accompanying the child to the program)
OR take photos of child with grandparent as families arrive. During the course of the program, print out and distribute photos to be placed in the frames.
- Create a sample frame that will serve as a model for families.

Directions:

- Ask adults to help children compose notes about the grandparent whose photo will be displayed in the frame.
- One note should contain the words: “I love _____ because...”; “Things I like to do with _____...”; or “Reasons why I love _____ to pieces...”
- The other shapes on the frame will contain short phrases and sentences that help to complete the statement you chose. For example, a heart shape might contain the words “Things I love to do with Grandma,” while the other shapes might contain words such as “read books,” “build with Legos,” or “go to the beach”
- Children attach love notes to frame and decorate the spaces in between notes.

Intro:

“Parents, grandparents (and kids) love looking at photos of the people they love. This project will help those photos become even more special. You will decorate a frame and add notes to the frame, letting the person in the photo know just how much you love them.”



Love Bites

Project Description:

Kids prepare special snacks for grandparents. Grandparents, in turn prepare special snacks for kids.

Recommended for: ages 2 – 8

Fruit Kebobs

Materials Needed:

- Strawberries
- Melon: cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon (use one type or a combination)
- Grapes
- Wooden skewers
- Several heart-shaped cookie cutters, so several families can work at the same time
- Plastic knives
- Paper plates to serve as cutting boards and for eating

Advanced Preparations:

- Remove green leaves from strawberries.
- Slice melon in half, remove seeds, and slice in round circles.
- Remove rind from melon.
- Break grapes into small clusters.

Directions:

- Prepare fruit for kebobs.
 - Using plastic knives, cut strawberries in half lengthwise, creating a heart shape.
 - Using cookie cutters, create heart-shaped melon pieces.
 - Pluck individual grapes from their stems.
- Poke skewer through fruit, arranging as desired.
- Share creations with loved ones.



Yogurt Parfaits

Materials Needed:

- Strawberries
- Yogurt: Plain, strawberry, and/or vanilla (Greek or regular)
- Granola
- Plastic cups
- Plastic spoons
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters (optional)
- Apples (optional)
- Whipped Cream (optional)

Advanced Preparations:

- Remove green leaves from strawberries and cut into halves or quarters (or ask participants to cut the strawberries as part of the “cooking” process).
- Arrange strawberries, granola, and yogurt in separate bowls.
- Optional: Peel and cut apples crosswise into 1/4 inch wide slices. The core of the apple should be in the center of the slices. Remove seeds.

Directions:

- Taking an empty cup and spoon, participants fill their cup in layers (i.e. a layer of granola, a layer of yogurt, a layer of fruit, etc.).
- Optional: Participants can prepare their own heart-shaped fruit by slicing strawberries in half and using cookie cutters to cut apple hearts.
- Optional: Top with whipped cream and enjoy!

Intro:

This activity gives you a chance to show your love for your grandparents by preparing a special snack for them. As you make a snack for your grandparent, perhaps they'll make a snack for you.”



Crowns of Love

Project Description: Kids and grandparents prepare crowns for each other. A note in the center of crown reads “_____ is special because...” or “I love _____ because...” Small shapes contain descriptions of admirable traits of the crown wearer.

Recommended for: ages 1 and up

Materials Needed:

- Poster board, construction paper, or craft foam for making crowns
OR pre-made crowns from places such as bulk party supplies (<http://www.bulkpartysupplies.com>)
- Stickers
- Construction paper shapes
- Stapler or hole punch and elastic
- Markers
- Glue sticks or glue, bowls, and Q-tips



Advanced Preparations:

- Cut out crowns from poster board or craft foam.
- Cut out shapes for love notes.
- Create a few sample crowns. Vary the wording on the crowns (examples: “I love Grandpa because...”, “Things I love to do with Jonah...”).



Directions

- Choose a crown.
- Decide who you'll be making the crown for.
- Select one shape to glue onto the center of the crown.
- Decide upon the phrase you'd like to use for your crown, like “I love _____ because...”; “Things I love to do with _____...”; or “_____’s Superpowers.”
- Glue on additional shapes and write words that fit with the words in the center of the crown.
- Measure the crown-wearer’s head and either staple the crown or punch holes on either side of the crown and string an elastic between the holes.

Intro:

“When we see a crown on someone’s head, we assume that the person wearing the crown is someone special (After all, it’s usually kings and queens who wear crowns). Right now, we’d like you to make a crown for one of your very special grandparents. You’ll probably only have time today to make one crown, but once you see how easy it is to make crowns, you can go home and make a crown for each of your grandparents. To make this crown extra special, we’d like you to add some notes to your crown, describing things you love to do with your grandparent and/or things about your grandparent that you love (the adult who is with you can help with the writing). As you work on your crown, we’d like your grandparent to make a crown for you, filling it with notes that show how special you are.”

A Book of Love

Project Description: Children and grandparents create a memory book together. As they complete the inner pages of the book, children and grandparents have a chance to learn interesting information about one another. To enhance the reminiscing quality of the book, the cover of the book can be decorated with handprints of the grandparent and grandchild.

Materials Needed

- Large sheets of construction paper or poster board (to be used as book covers)
- Construction paper or craft foam for creating hand silhouettes or other shapes for the book covers
- Stickers
- Scissors
- Pre-cut shapes (e.g. hearts, Jewish stars, flowers, etc.)
- Glue sticks or glue, bowls, and Q-tips
- Stapler, or hole punch and notebook rings
- Printed book pages for inside the book (provided at the end of this program)
- Pencils, pens, and markers



Advanced Preparations:

- Print copies of the inner book pages. Collate the pages so that every family will receive a stack/packet of all 5 pages.
- Create a sample book.

Directions

- Fold large paper/poster board in half to create a book cover.
- Optional: Trace around grandparent's and grandchild's hand, creating a hand silhouette. Cut out the hands (Depending on the child's age, adults may need to assist with the cutting).
- Decorate cover with stickers, shapes, etc.
- Remember to give your book a title.
- Begin to fill in the spaces and complete some of the information for the book's inner pages. (Don't worry if you can't finish the pages. This is a memory book that is meant to be worked on over time).
- Insert pages into cover: either staple the book together or use a hole punch and metal rings to bind the book together.

Intro:

“Even though there is a big difference in your ages, you and your grandparent are probably alike in many different ways. Grandchildren and grandparents can learn a lot about one another by sharing stories and memories and talking about their favorite things with one another. This project will give you and your grandparent a chance to learn more about one another and write down some notes so that you can remember things about one another for a very long time.”

Read the story

Introductory Remarks:

Because everyone has been talking about love and making such wonderful love projects, I feel as if this room is overflowing with love. Do you feel the love? Maybe we can add to it by having everyone give a big hug to the person who brought you to our program today. In our story, we're going to meet grandchildren and grandparents who love one another very much. As we read, see if you can keep track of some of the ways that the grandparents and grandchildren in our story shows their love for one another.

Post-Reading Discussion (Book-Specific Questions):

A Grandma/Grandpa Like Yours

- The animals in our book have special names for their grandparent(s). Do you have special names for your grandparents? What do you call them?
- What were some of the things that the grandparents and grandchildren in the book liked to do together? What do you like to do with your grandparents?
- How did the grandparents in the book let their grandchildren know that they loved them very much? How did the grandchildren show their love to their grandparents? How do you let your grandparents know how much you love them?

The Shabbat Puppy

- What did Grampa and Noah like to do together?
- Why didn't Grampa want Mazel to go with them on their Shabbat walks?
- When Grampa told Noah that Mazel couldn't join them on their Shabbat walks, Noah didn't yell or cry or argue with Grampa. He listened to his Grampa and **honored** his wishes. **Honor** is a word that means to treat another with respect. When we honor someone, we talk nicely to that person, we listen to what they say, and we help them as much as we can. We let everyone know how wonderful that person is. Noah showed honor and love towards his grandfather when he eagerly tried to do what his Grampa wished for and desired (to go on a walk in search of Shabbat Shalom while leaving Mazel behind). How do you show honor to your grandparents?
- Do your grandparents have any special rules that you need to follow when you're with them? (When you follow those rules without complaining, you're honoring your grandparents).

Grandma Rose's Magic

- Why did so many different people want to buy Grandma a set of dishes?
- What was special about the dishes Grandma picked out? Why did she want to buy those specific dishes?
- What did Julia, the granddaughter, do in this story? (Hint: Who was the person who Grandma spoke to about the dishes that she wanted?) How did Julia show her Grandma that she loved her? How did Grandma show her love towards Julia?

Post-Reading Discussion (General Questions – for use with all books):

- Does anyone know how to say love in Hebrew? (Ahava). In the middle of the word AHAVA is a small Hebrew word that says “HAVA.” “Hava” means “to give.” According to the Torah and other important books of Judaism, one of the ways that we can show people that we love them is by giving. I don’t mean giving money or presents – I mean showing that we love someone by giving hugs, kisses, attention, and by doing kind things for one another. How do you act and what words do you use to show your grandparents that you love them?
- The Torah, teaches that we need to show **honor** to our elders – people who are older than us (the Torah says that elders are those with white hair). What does the word honor (“kibud” or “kavod” in Hebrew) mean?
- The Torah states that one way to show honor to is to stand up when a person enters the room. Why do you think the Torah wants us to stand up when we see an older person?
- According to the Torah, one reason why we stand when an older person comes into the room is because we know that someone who is older has lived for a very long time and has learned many important things. Do your grandparents know many different things? What are some of the lessons and facts that you’ve learned from your grandparents?

Follow Up activities and resources

Intro:

“Right now, we have more activities for you to do that will help you to show your grandma or grandpa how much you love them.”

Activities: Choose 1-2 additional activities from the opening list.

Singing Songs:

“Do It for Grandma Song”

(To the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie”)

Let's clap our hands for Grandma,
for Grandma, for Grandma,
Let's clap our hands for grandma,
Let's clap them this way.

Clap this way and that way,
Clap this way and that way,
Let's clap our hands for Grandma
Let's clap them this way.

Have the children do the proper actions.
Use these other actions also: Let's stomp our feet, Let's nod our heads, etc.

“Let's Go See Our Grandparents”

(To the tune of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game”)

Let's go see our grandparents,
Take us there for a while.
Mommy and Daddy both need a break.
We'll play games and we'll stay up real late!

Oh, we want to thank our grandparents
For all the things that they do,
So it's time..to..say you're the best
And that we love you!

“Bubbie, Zeyde” (for National Grandparents Day)

(To the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”)

Bubbie, Zeyde, Bubbie, Zeyde
Today's for you! Today's for you!
We want you to feel special, to know how much we love you.
Yes, we do! Yes, we do!

“You Make Me Happy”

(To the tune of “You Are My Sunshine”)

Bubbe and Zeyde, Bubbe and Zeyde,
You make me happy; You make me laugh.
You like to hug me, I know you love me;
And I will always love you too.

“Bubbe, Bubbe When Are You Coming to Visit Me”

To the tune of “My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean”)

My bubbe is also my grandma, my savta, my omma, my nana (2X)
Bubbe, Bubbe when are you coming to visit me?
Bubbe, Bubbe when are you coming to play?

My zaydie is also my grandpa, my saba, my poppa, my gramps (2x)
Zaydie, Zaydie when are you coming to visit me?
Zaydie, Zaydie when are you coming to stay?

Resources for parents, teachers, families

Nurturing the Family

After the program, contact the families, thanking them for coming. If possible, email one or two photos which you may have taken at the program.

Send a few pertinent links to families:

- [Summer Ideas for Grandparents](#) (PJ Blog)
- [Grandparents and their Legacies](#) (PJ Blog)
- [Respecting Grandparents](#) (Kveller)
- [Honoring Grandparents who Aren't Jewish](#) (Interfaith Family)
- [Activities for Grandparents and Grandchildren to Do Together](#) (Family Education)
- [Great Handmade Gifts for Grandparents](#) (Caring.com)

Love Thoughts

My Name:

My Age:

Names of my grandparents:

Circle the name of the grandparent who is with you today (or the name of the grandparent for whom you'll be making today's gift.)

Three things I love to do with this grandparent:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three reasons why I love this grandparent:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three things this grandparent loves to do:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three ways that I can help/ be kind to this grandparent:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Love Thoughts

My Name:

My Age:

Names of my grandparents:

Circle the name of the grandparent who is with you today (or the name of the grandparent for whom you'll be making today's gift.)

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- 3.

Three things this grandparent loves to do:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three ways that I can help/ be kind to this grandparent:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

About the Authors

Child's Name and Age:

Grandparents Name:

Child's Name for Grandparent:

Today's Date:

Our Favorites

	Grandparent's Favorite	Child's Favorite
Favorite Thing to Do (and why)		
Favorite Color		
Favorite Song		
Favorite Animal (and why)		
Favorite Food		
Favorite Holiday (and why)		
Favorite Book (and why)		

Important Places

	Grandparent's Place	Child's Place
Favorite Place to Visit (and why)		
A Place where I learned a lot (and an example of something that I learned there)		
A Place I would love to visit (but haven't been to yet) and why I'd like to go there		
The First Place I lived and something I remember about that place		

Important People

	Grandparent's Person	Child's Person
Someone whom I like to spend time with (and why)		
Someone who taught me an important lesson and what they taught me		
Someone whom I'd love to meet (and why)		
Someone whom I admire and would like to be like when I get older		
Name of one of my good friends and something that I like(d) to do with that friend		

Things We Would Like to Remember

Notes, drawings, and photos about special occasions and moments that we'd like to remember.