

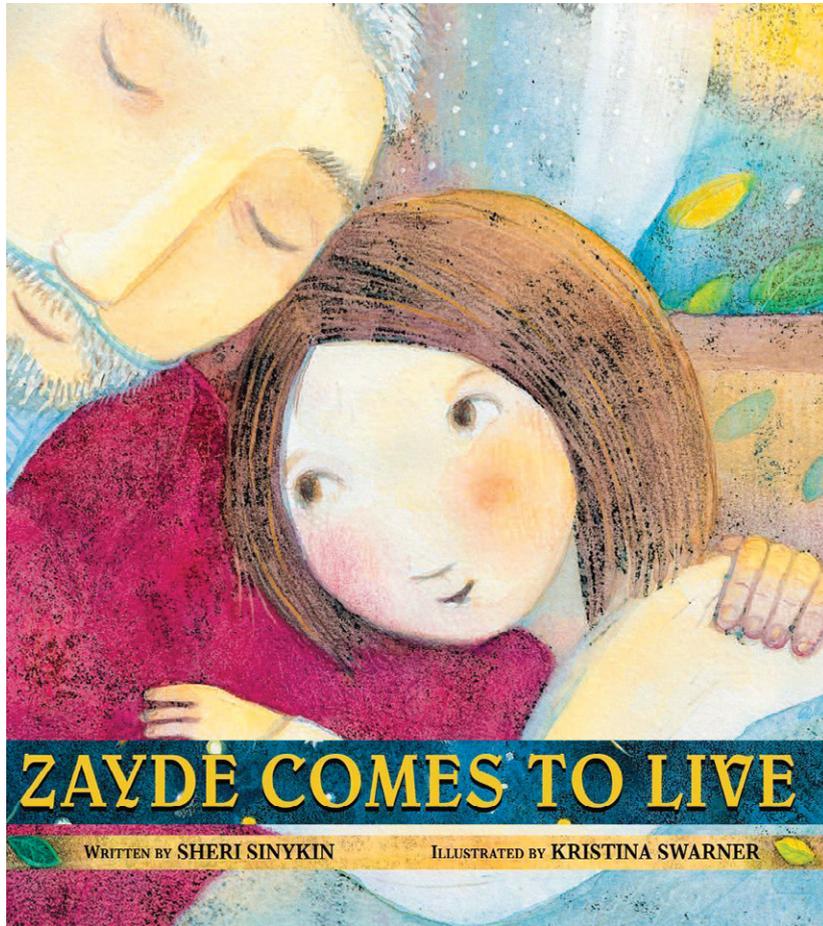
A Page in a Book[®]

RECOMMENDING THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

By Paige Gardner Smith

The Gift of Grandfathers

Grandfathers often have the special gift of wisdom and extra attention to share with our children. For children who are blessed to know their grandfatherly forebears, they often gain the benefits of their grandfather's life experiences and memories through those rare and treasured interactions. Getting to know their grandfathers is a vital part of children's lives as they work to assemble their understanding of how families are made and grown, how each relationship is different and special. The following titles explore the unique connections between children and their grandfathers in beautiful, loving and poignant ways.



Zayde Comes to Live

By Sheri Sinykin, Illustrated by Kristina Swarner (Peachtree)

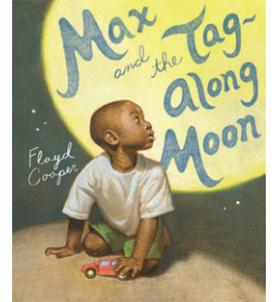
Rachel thinks she knows why her Zayde (grandfather) has come to live with her and her family. Although no one has told her, she knows because he is dying. He is no longer able to play hide-and-seek, or catch a ball without getting tired. He runs out of breath when he reads to Rachel, so she reads to him. While she's aware that she will eventually lose her Zayde, she's more worried about what will happen to him when he dies. She doesn't know who to ask until the family's rabbi visits. The answers she receives are reassuring and allow her to focus on every moment, every breath that she can still share with her Zayde before the end. The title alone, *Zayde Comes to Live*, is an optimistic message leading a powerful story recommended for kids who are facing the loss of a grandparent or elder relative.

Max and the Tag-Along Moon

By Floyd Cooper (Philomel /Penguin Books for Young Readers)

At the end of Max's visit with his Grandpa, the hardest part is saying good-

bye. As their last hug is framed by the rising full moon, his Grandpa says, "That 'ol moon will always shine for you...on and on!" And true enough, as the family drives away, Max watches his Grandpa recede from view while the moon waxes large. Through all the twists and turns of the drive the moon plays peek-a-boo, yet it is always there. But when the clouds arrive, the moon is hidden and Max isn't sure that it's shining anymore. Missing his Grandpa AND the moon, Max lies in bed and worries about the absence of both until a gentle light begins to fill his bedroom, keeping his Grandpa's promise. A lovingly illustrated testament to a relationship that is constant despite the challenges of time and distance, *Max and the Tag-Along Moon* is gentle support for kids missing a grandparent.



Joone

By Emily Kate Moon (Dial)

Joone revels in the life she shares with her Grandpa in his homey yurt. Narrating the ways they spend their days, Joone offers a

child's eye view of the ways that her grandfather finds a balance between play and parenting. Her words reveal bits of her Grandpa's life (before he was old) showing that she's paying attention to who he was, as well as who he is. With lively illustrations and spare text, readers will appreciate the blending lives of a loving grandfather moving slowly through the day while his adventure-some, full of zest granddaughter runs, climbs and swims with enough energy for both of them.

