

# WILFRID GORDON McDONALD PARTRIDGE

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Book by Mem Fox ©1985

Illustrated by Julie Vivas

Themes: Friendship, Grandparents

Grade Level K - 2

Running Time: 7 minutes

### SUMMARY

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge lives next door to a nursing home. He has a special friend, Miss Nancy, whom he visits regularly. One day, Wilfrid overhears his parents talking about Miss Nancy's "problem." It seems Miss Nancy has lost her memory. Wilfrid asks the folks he knows at the nursing home what they know about memory to provide Miss Nancy with just what she needs to bring hers back.

### OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the way friends help one another.
- Children will appreciate the unique contributions of the young and old.
- Children will understand the importance of caring for others.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Tell children that the two main characters in the book are a boy named Wilfrid and an elderly woman named Miss Nancy. Talk with children about the elderly people they know: grandparents, family friends, neighbors. Encourage them to describe the kinds of conversations they

may have had with older people and the things they may have learned from them.

Explain to the children that memories are an important part of the story. Encourage children to describe some of their fondest memories. Ask:

- What made that experience so happy/sad/surprising for you?
- How would you feel if you couldn't remember this experience?

Share the book **Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge** with children. Then ask:

- What special things did Wilfrid do for the people at the nursing home?
  - What person did Wilfrid like best?
- Why?
- What problem did Miss Nancy have?
  - What did Wilfrid do to help Miss Nancy?

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Ask children to bring an object from home that reminds them of a favorite person, place, or experience they have had. Have others in the class ask questions such as:

- Where did the object come from?
- If someone special gave it to you, who is this person?
- Where do you keep it at home?

As children share these objects, encourage them to describe how they feel when they see the objects and the reasons the objects remind them of the people, places or

experiences they represent.

Plan a visit to a nearby rest home or nursing home. Bring along some cookies children have made or the ingredients for an arts and crafts project children can share with the residents. Encourage children to ask questions of the elderly people they encounter, emphasizing that there is so much young and old can learn from one another.

Give children the opportunity to dramatize the story. Assign the roles of Miss Nancy, Mrs. Jordan, Mr. Hosking, Mr. Tippett, Miss Mitchell, Mr. Drysdale, and Wilfrid's parents. Provide props children can use, such as Miss Mitchell's walking stick, a broom for Mr. Tippett, a toy piano or organ for Mrs. Jordan, etc. Later, invite other classes or plan a special event where parents can enjoy the delightful production.

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