

Common Reactions

- **Annoyance or anger:** A child may feel annoyed with certain behaviors; like repeatedly being called by the wrong name.
- **Sadness:** A child may feel sad when they realize an important person in their life is sick.
- **Concern:** A child may feel concerned and want to help.
- **Happy:** A child may feel happy when they are able to help the person with Alzheimer's.

Other Storybooks and Reading Guides

Other Storybooks and Reading Guides can be found at:

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/alzheimers/booksandreadingguides.html>

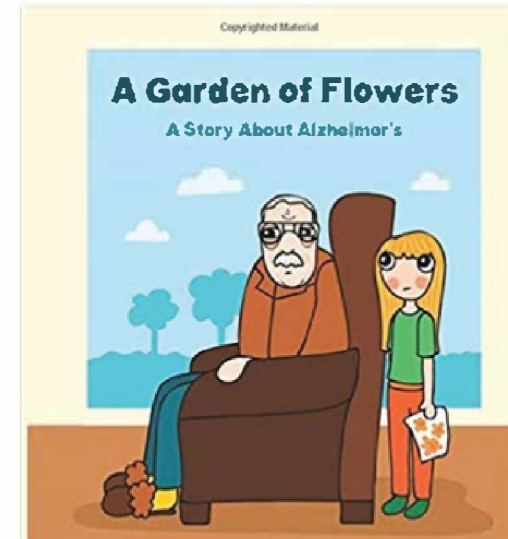


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Reading Guide for A Garden of Flowers: A Story About Alzheimer's



By Marta Schmidt Mendez
Illustrated by Andreea Mironiuc

Alzheimer's Awareness for Children

About this Program

The MSU Extension ***Alzheimer's Awareness for Children Storybook*** program is designed to teach children about a form of dementia.

The goals of the program are 1) increase awareness and knowledge about Alzheimer's (a form of dementia) and 2) provide supportive resources to children and families when they have a loved one diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

The authors of the reading guides are:

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Brief Summary

Lily has always done many fun things with her Grandpa. They are very close. As Lily gets older, she starts to notice that her Grandpa calls her by the names of different flowers, but not by her actual name. At one point Lily becomes upset and tells him "I don't like being called by the names of flowers that are not my name!"

Lily's parents step in and explain to her Grandpa has developed Alzheimer's. Lily decides to figure out ways she can still interact with her Grandpa even though he has Alzheimer's.

Questions to Ask

- Grandpa Henry called Lily "Silly Lilly" when she was very little. But after a while, Grandpa Henry can't remember Lily's name. *What names did Grandpa Henry call her?*
- Lily told Grandpa Henry she does not like being called by the names of different flowers. *How did Grandpa Henry respond?*
- Lily wanted to know why Grandpa Henry was forgetting her name. *Who helped Lily understand why Grandpa Henry wasn't the same anymore? Was it Lily's fault that Grandpa Henry had Alzheimer's?*
- After Lily's Mom and Dad explain to her Grandpa Henry has Alzheimer's. They encourage her to spend time with him like she always has. *What activities does Lily do with Grandpa Henry now?*

Activity Enrichment

- **Sing, if you're happy and you know it.** Ask your child what other feelings did Lily have?
- **Draw 2 circles; one as a happy face and the other as a sad face.** Ask the child to draw something underneath the happy face that makes them happy and something underneath the sad face that makes them sad.
- **Practice identifying emotions:** Use clay or playdough to make faces (sad, mad, happy, scared). After you and your child have created your faces, ask your child to identify the feeling he or she is expressing by saying aloud, "I feel___."