**Celebrating Intergenerational Relationships and Diverse Cultures with Children's Books:**
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This list of books highlights intergenerational relationships between grandparents and grandchildren that can promote children's understanding of the events and experiences of an older generation. These books spark discussion, writing, and opportunities to strengthen familial bonds as well as home-school connections. A focus on children's love of grandparents and other older family members will help readers develop an appreciation of their grandparents and elders while celebrating diverse cultures and identities. In many ways, intergenerational stories can help children develop social skills, empathy, and grow a sense of community while also enhancing their cognitive development through exposure to different perspectives and stories from older adults. Intergenerational relationships keep traditions alive and help children connect to their background, providing a safe space for children to be themselves. Families can explore their local and school libraries as well as local and online bookstores for other quality books about family dynamics, especially those that identify intergenerational relationships.

*Abuelita and I Make Flan* by Adriana Hernández Bergstrom. 2022. Charlesbridge.
As Anita helps Abuelita to make the flan, the grandmother shares special stories and remembers her time in Cuba. Keeping a family tradition alive, this book includes a glossary of Spanish terms, a traditional recipe for cheese flan, and photos of the author's family. It is a delightful celebration of food, culture, and family. The concise text is sprinkled with Spanish words to convey Anita's thoughts and feelings. The conversations between family members are full of love and support. A story that emphasizes the importance of family customs and the connections between generations.

*A Gift for Nai Nai* by Kim-Hoa Ung. A Feiwel and Friends Book. 2023.

A warm story of intergenerational connection. Lyn Lyn wants to crochet a special hat for her grandmother as a birthday gift. Her grandmother teaches her how to crochet at her request. Lyn Lyn's process from initial frustration to renewed determination and creative problem-solving will resonate with anyone who has ever struggled to pick up a new skill. The end pages of the book are a crochet pattern for Nai Nai's hat. In the story, Nai Nai is depicted using a wheelchair and some Chinese words are used (translated in a glossary). A sweet story celebrating the special bond between a granddaughter and her grandmother.

*All from a Walnut* by Ammi-Joan Paquette and illustrated by Felicita Sala. 2022. Paquette.
The story opens with Emilia waking to a single walnut on her nightstand which she soon learns was placed there by her grandfather. She understands this to be an invitation to listen to one of his stories, and this time, it is "the best of stories"—his own immigration narrative from Italy as a boy. Traveling with only one small bag and a nut just like the one. *All from A Walnut* is more complex than many books that aim to help young children process the death of a loved one because it is as much about immigration—about *building* a life—as it is about grieving the loss of life. Paquette uses the walnut as a metaphor for the journeys people take within life and out of it, showing how small beginnings full of possibilities can grow and yield new life for generations to come.

*Bannock: A Native Canadian Story of Love, Family, and Tradition* by Kwarakwante Publishing. 2024.
Told through the eyes of a young child learning from their grandmother, this story is filled with history, tradition, and the joy of togetherness. Each page invites readers into a world where love and culture come alive and teaches the values of patience, sharing, and the importance of passing down family traditions. This book will spark conversations in school and at home about heritage and create lasting memories.

*Bubbie and Rivka's Best-Ever Challah (So Far!)* by Sarah Lynne Reul. 2022. Harry N. Abrams.
Bubbie is portrayed as a non-baking grandma who is trying something new because her grandchild is interested and isn't afraid to fail during the process of learning. Ruel's bright, colorful cartoons perfectly capture the love and humor of learning to bake. Together, Bubbie and Rivka learn something new about how to make their next bread-making attempt more successful. Young readers and their grandparents will feel the love and connect to their own family traditions.

*Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by* Kevin Noble Maillard and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal. 2019. Roaring Brook Press.
This picture book depicts an intergenerational group of Native American family members and friends as they make fry bread together. Maillard (a member of the Seminole Nation, Mekusukey band) explains how fry bread became a part of many Native Americans' diet after the people were forced from their land and given limited rations by the United States government. The book's endpapers include a wonderful author's note explaining that most Native families have a "fry bread lady," usually a grandmother or an old aunt who passes the special recipe to her female successor.

*Grandma, It's Me: A Children's Book about Dementia* by Y. Y. Chan and illustrated by Pearly L. 2024. Little White Flowers Publishing.
Written as a series of diary entries, a granddaughter (Riley) tries her best to help Grandma remember and writes about their time together. An uplifting story that encourages young readers to support and care for the elderly with love, patience and understanding. This book encourages journaling as a way to process emotions and feelings to face life's many challenges with strength and a deeper understanding. The book contains many resources including a list of how you can help a loved one with dementia.

*Grandpa and the Kingfisher* by Anna Wilson and illustrated by Sarah Massini. 2023. Nosy Crow Inc.
Over the course of a year, a young child watches kingfishers by the river with his grandpa. As spring turns to summer and autumn to winter, the kingfishers raise a family, while Grandpa teaches his grandchild about the power of nature and the circle of life. The boy asks questions about the birds while his grandfather answers, paralleling his life. A powerful, intergenerational bond between grandparent and grandchild shows that just as spring always follows winter, hope will always return if you know where to look for it. A positive story about life, death, and being a part of the natural world.

*Grandpa is Here!* by Tanya Rosie and illustrated by Chuck Groenink. 2023. Candlewick Press.
This tender story focuses on another steadfast relationship between a child and a beloved family

member and is a lovely portrayal of the complex reality of having family members who live far away. The artwork gives readers a warm glimpse of Iranian culture. The double-page spreads offer depth to the grandfather-granddaughter relationship, with text curving around the hills emphasizing their joy and excitement. The granddaughter's words: "Grandpa is like snow—I never want him to go, never want his magic to leave," serves as a gentle reminder to cherish family members when they visit.

*I'll Go and Come Back* by Rajani LaRocca and illustrated by Sara Palacios. 2022. Candlewick Press.

Jyoti lives in America and her grandmother Sita Pati lives in India, but despite a language barrier, they form a bond and can understand one another. When Jyoti visits her grandmother halfway around the world, she is overwhelmed by the differences between India and home and feels lonely and out of place. Soon, she and Sita Pati are able to understand each other. They reunite next summer when Pati visits Jyoti in America, and it's Jyoti's turn to make her grandmother feel welcome. A tender sharing of culture and empathy that bridges generations.

*Just Like Grandma* By Kim Rogers and illustrated by Julie Flett. 2023. Heartdrum.

This story shows us that elders can be loving, influential people in our lives, often caretakers that show us how to care for each other. Grandma does beading, dancing, and gardening. Becca learns these traditional arts and also makes the basketball team with Grandma helping her practice. Meanwhile, Grandpa does the cooking. Winner of the Charlotte Zolotow Award and an Ezra Jack Keats Award Honor Book, this book is a heartwarming portrayal of intergenerational relationships and cultural heritage.

*Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson. 2015. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

C. J. and his grandmother ride the bus through the neighborhood, noticing the beauty in everyday life. The text includes believable-sounding dialogue, and an equally believable relationship between grandmother and grandson. The award-winning book teaches students to see the beauty in the world around them and appreciate the lessons that can be learned from older generations. A celebration of love between a grandchild and grandparent, this story fosters a sense of gratitude and awareness of different life experiences. Lessons include the value of helping the less fortunate and how to grow up to be a good person (as guided by your Nana).

*Lolo's Sari-Sari Store* by Sophia N. Lee and illustrated by Christine Almeda. 2023. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

"Sari-sari" means a good variety. In this story, a young girl remembers her grandfather's store in the Philippines. Her grandfather's words help her discover opportunities for new connections in her new home in America. Through snacks and connection, this story is about helping a community with their needs. Now, far from Philippines and struggling to belong in America, the main character sees so much of Lolo around her. Lolo's life lessons about empathy, kindness, and community keep her curious about her new setting as she makes new friends, tries new food, and shares her own Filipino culture with others. A lovely story fusing past and present, family lost and found, in memory and sensory experiences.

*Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice* by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova and illustrated by Robert Roth. 1997. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Mama Provi's granddaughter Lucy is sick, so Mama Provi makes a big pot of arroz con pollo for

her and travels from her first-floor apartment to Lucy's eighth-floor home in the same building. On each floor, Mama Provi trades a bit of her rice with a different neighbor, receiving a new type of food each time. By the time she finally reaches Lucy, the two have a tremendous and varied feast. The book portrays Mama Provi's multicultural world through good neighbors and good food in a wonderful celebration of food and culture, friends and family.

*Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina and illustrated by Angela Dominguez. 2015. Candlewick Press.

A poignant story of intergenerational connection, transition, and patience. Abuela's adjustment to her new home is sensitively portrayed as she and Mia bond over their different cultures and shared heritage. Readers from multigenerational immigrant families will recognize the all-too-familiar language barrier and cheer for the warm and loving relationship between Abuela and Mia, portrayed in both text and illustrations as the characters struggle to understand each other.

*Mariana and Her Familia* by Mónica Mancillas and illustrated by Erika Meza.2022. Balzer + Bray.

Mariana and her mom travel to her first home in Mexico, but Mariana worries and feels left out in a household filled with unfamiliar cousins, aunts, and uncles who speak a different language. It is her grandmother (Abuelita) who makes her smile as they connect with photos of the family quesadillas, and picture books. Readers will feel the warmth and family love that surmounts obstacles of borders, language, and age.

*Masala Chai, Fast and Slow* By Rajani LaRocca and illustrated by Neha Rawat. 2023. Candlewick Press.

A sweet story of intergenerational love, the importance of patience, and the joy of a simple afternoon family ritual that conveys the love between grandfather and grandson despite their different approaches to their daily tempo. Bright illustrations add humor and cultural details that ground this story in a contemporary Indian context. A recipe for masala chai will have readers heading to the kitchen to try it for themselves.

*My Grandfather's Song* by Phùng Nguyên Quang and Huynh Kim Liên. 2023. Make Me a World.

This book is a tribute to the authors' histories and how to build community through hard work and teamwork and the gifts nature provides for us. It is a love letter to grandparents and legacies with important life lessons, celebrating a grandfather and grandson relationship and a deep respect for nature. A bridge to spark conversations with parents and grandparents and to consider the importance of conservation.

*My Paati's Saris* by Jyoti Rajan Gopal and illustrated by Art Twink. 2022. Kokila.

A universal story about a young boy discovering his identity. Tamil learns about the world around him, his family, and himself through his close connection with his grandmother and the comforting textures, tones, and designs of her extraordinary saris. Each sari holds a story—ones that speak to him, but most important of all, they allow him just to be. An exploration of a young boy's love for his grandmother and for the story that links family bonds and cultural traditions to a child's sense of home and self.

*Nana in the City* by Lauren Castillo. 2014 Clarion Books.
A grandson spends an overnight visit with his nana and is frightened to find that the city where she lives is filled with noise, crowds, and scary things. Then Nana makes him a special cape to help him be brave, and soon the everyday sights, sounds, and smells of the city are not scary—but wonderful. A wonderful story that delivers a message to young readers about a willingness to embrace new experiences and change one's perspective, all couched in the security of spending time with a loved one.

*Nana, Nenek, & Nina* by Liza Ferneyhough. 2022. Dial Books for Young Readers.
An autobiographical book by the author depicting her relationships with her Nana and Nanek, grandmothers living in two different locations in the world – one in England and the other in Malaysia. The side-by-side illustrations show readers that different cultures are not so different. An ode to bicultural homes that navigate long-distance phone calls travel, jet lag, time zones, and a longing for loved ones far away. Nina's comfort in very-far-apart places, her facility with languages, and her love for family creates an engaging book that will widen the world for students and their families. ALA Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature honor.

*Nana Akua Goes to School* by Tricia Elam Walker and illustrated by April Harrison. 2020. Anne Schwartz Books.
This story celebrates cultural diversity. Zura brings her West African grandmother whose face bears traditional tribal markings to meet her kindergarten classmates on grandparents' day. She discovers that her fears about Nana Akua's African clothing and tattoos being too different are what make her the perfect visitor. This book pays homage to several Ashanti traditions. Zura learns how one can teach others about one's culture while feeling pride and love. Readers can appreciate the introduction to Ghanaian culture and symbols, making it a valuable addition to their multi-cultural library.

*Our Favorite Day* by Joowon Oh. 2019. Candlewick Press.
A retired grandfather has a routine that changes one Thursday as he prepares for the visit of his granddaughter. Papa's routine is used to emphasize the special nature of Thursdays, and of his relationship with his granddaughter. The artwork, created using watercolor, gouache and cut paper, is colorful and expressive and are as sweet as the relationship between grandfather and granddaughter. A touching story depicting the wonderful bond between grandparent and grandchild.

*Sitti's Secrets* by Naomi Shihab Nye & illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. 1994. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
Though Sitti speaks only Arabic (she and Mona communicate through Mona's father), the two had their own language of gestures and glances, hums, and claps. A warm and enduring bond growing between Sitti and her American granddaughter. Back at home in the United States, Mona recalls visiting her grandma on "the other side of the earth". This story teaches us about Palestinian culture and Arabic words. It is a great way to urge them to do what they can to make change happen--even if that means just writing a letter. Children who live apart from their grandparents will be able to relate to this little girl's experience.

*Soul Food Sunday* by Winsome Bingham and illustrated by C.G. Esperanza. 2021. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

A 2022 Coretta Scott King Book Award Illustrator Honor Book, this story is a celebration of tradition and culture that encourages family time and coming together at a table filled with love and delicious food. Loud and harmonious, this book invites readers into an extended family's moment in time, and addresses family life, celebrations, and food. A wonderful author's note and illustrator's note in the end pages as well as a recipe for Mac 'N' Cheese.

*The Remember Balloons* Byn Jessie Oliveros and illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte. 2018. Simon and Schuster.

Using the metaphor of memory-filled balloons to explore the loss of memory and a confounding disease to young children is difficult. As the story—and the disease as it manifests in the narrator's grandfather—progresses, the idea of storing memories in balloons becomes more and more powerful. James and Grandpa's shared heritage and stories of their loving family shine. What is clear is that their memories matter—to them and ultimately to readers. Wonderful illustrations with diverse characters.

*The Walk* by Winsome Bingham and illustrated by E. B. Lewis. 2023. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

The main characters of the book, a grandma and granddaughter, start on a long walk and pick up community members along the way. The walk continues as they pass local businesses on their way to a school to cast their vote, their vote for hope. Along the way the girl learns the importance of THE WALK— "to show up, show out, and show them" that they won't be silenced. A rallying cheer for community building, for strengthening family connections, for imparting our civic duty, and for embracing the responsibility and freedom we all enjoy that allows us to share our voice with our vote.

*Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco. 1990. Penguin Young Readers Group.

The author shares the memorable story of how her grandma - her Babushka - helped her overcome her fear of thunder when she was a little girl. A delightful story with beautiful illustrations that shows how an elder can use their wisdom to help a young family member overcome a fear. Be sure to gather all the ingredients and make the delicious cake (recipe at the end of the book). The story helps youngsters understand that we are often braver than we think!

**Final Thoughts**: Enriching literacy and family bonding are wonderful benefits of sharing books among generations and improving communication skills while developing a deeper understanding of history and culture. They can have a positive impact on children's overall emotional well-being. The books on this list can serve as wonderful read alouds for elementary school students and help children recognize the importance of grandparents and elders in our lives. Intergenerational relationships are important, providing a valuable source of wisdom, life experiences, and support for elementary school-age children.