

Grandad and the Laundry Basket

Literacy Links

Activities which can be used with any story are in blue print. Brackets indicate which activities can be carried out by children on their own and which need teacher intervention.

Speaking, Listening and Responding	Drama	Writing
(Children) Retell the story in pairs, swapping over when the teacher calls out 'change'.	(Teacher) Make a video or audio recording of groups of children telling their version of the story to show to other classes/parents.	(Teacher with children) After modelling, children create a story map plotting the sequence of events in the story.
(Children) In pairs, retell one part of the story with sound effects or music added to create atmosphere or a special effect.	(Teacher with children) Create a finger or shadow puppet play to retell the story. Use appropriate voices for the characters when you perform it.	(Teacher with children) Write one scene of the story as a play script. Use it to make a stop-frame animation of the scene. You could add music or sound effects.
(Children) Devise questions about the story for others to answer. Try to include all the different kinds of Talking Points .	(Children) Tell the story in role as Granddad, relating the events as he saw them and giving his point of view.	(Children) In groups, pairs or as individuals, write a list of 'rules for how families should behave'.
(Children) Prepare a short presentation expressing your opinions about Billy's Mum and Dad, giving evidence from the story to support what you say.	(Teacher) Freeze frame key moments from the story, with groups of four – one for each character. Ask individuals to speak their thoughts aloud when tapped on the shoulder.	(Children) Create a comic-strip of Dad talking to his work colleagues about Granddad coming to stay. Include some comments and questions from the colleagues.
(Teacher) Have a whole class discussion or debate based on one of the philosophical questions, such as <i>should families be expected to look after elderly relatives.</i>	(Teacher) Make four groups, representing each of the characters in the story. Ask the children to talk together about the events of the story, saying what happened to them and how they felt about it.	(Children) Write contrasting diary entries in role as Mum and Billy, expressing their different feelings and thoughts about key events from the story.
(Teacher) Ask the children, in groups, to discuss Billy's thoughts and feelings at different points in the story.	(Teacher) Put Dad in conscience alley. Should he accept his responsibilities and look after Granddad, or try to get rid of him?	(Children) Imagine you are the family's next-door neighbour. Write a formal letter to the social services department expressing your concerns about what you have seen and heard.