

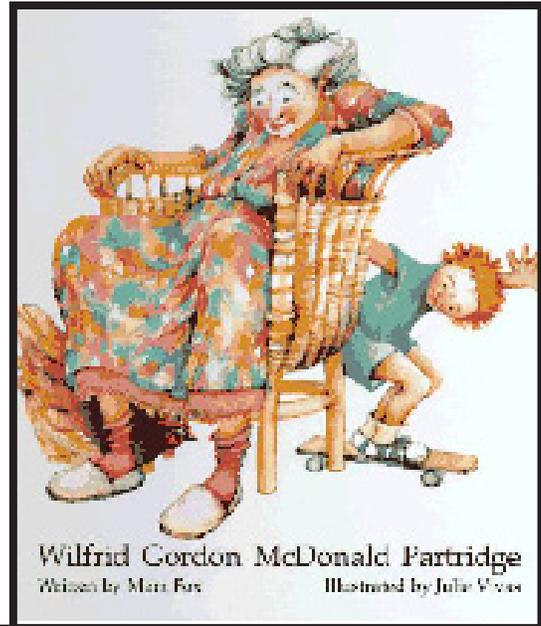
BOOKPALS STORYLINE PRESENTS:

"WILFRID GORDON MCDONALD PARTRIDGE"

By *Mem Fox*

illustrations by *Julie Vivas*

Watch online video of actor
Bradley Whitford reading this story at
<http://www.storylineonline.net>



BOOK SUMMARY

Wilfrid lives next to a retirement home, filled with folks like "Mrs. Jordan who played the organ" and "Mr. Hosking who told him scary stories." But his favorite old person is 96-year-old Miss Nancy. Everyone says Miss Nancy has lost her memory, and despite the fact that Wilfrid doesn't even know what a memory is, by accident he helps her find it. Mem Fox's original take on the capacity of children to help the old remember is especially notable for its non-patronizing focus on old age.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Share an object that reminds you of something that happened in your life. (i.e. a special cup from your childhood; a special picture of a special trip) Tell why this object is significant in reminding you of the event. Have children share something that reminds them of something special in their lives.
- Discuss and then write about friendship:
What are the qualities that make a good friend?
How do you choose a friend?
- Talk about and then make a list of characteristics that describe Wilfrid.
- Talk about and then make a list of characteristics that describe Miss Nancy.

MORE ACTIVITIES

- Discuss and then write about how you got your name or nickname.

Who named you?

What is the meaning of your name?

Do you like your name?

- Visit a retirement home or have an older person visit you to allow for discussion across generations.

Ask the older person to share about his/her life and what school was like when he/she was young.

- Make a friendship chain or bracelet with a separate loop for each of your friends.

Write the name of a different friend on each loop.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES

- The book Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge is about a friendship between an old woman who has trouble remembering and a young boy who helps her.
- Go to <http://www.athealth.com/consumer/disorders/forgetfulness.html> and read about the problem of forgetting.

What are some of the reasons that people forget things?

What specific things can you do to help someone who has trouble remembering?

Share your ideas with someone.

- Go to <http://www.scotthyoung.com/blog/2007/05/19/seven-tricks-to-stop-forgetfulness/> and learn about tricks some people find helpful to improve their memories.

Do you think these would be helpful? Why or why not?

Share your thoughts with someone.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MEM FOX was born in Melbourne but spent much of her early life in Zimbabwe. She returned to Australia in 1970 and is currently a lecturer in Drama and Language Arts at the Sturt Campus of the South Australian College of Advanced Education. She lives in the Adelaide foothills with her husband, Malcolm, and daughter, Chloe.

Other books by Mem Fox:

"Shoes From Grandpa" (with Julie Vivas)

"Possum Magic" (with Julie Vivas)

"Time for Bed"(with Jane Dyer)

"Night Noises" (with Terry Denion)

"Hattie and the Fox" (with Patricia Mullins)

"Tough Boris" (with Kathryn Brown)

"Harriet, You'll Drive Me Wild" (with Marla Frazee)

"Koala Lou" (with Pamela Lofts)

"Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will

Change Their Lives Forever" (with Judy Horacek)

ABOUT THE READER

Classically-trained BRADLEY WHITFORD had already received critical acclaim for his work in theater, film and television by the time he gained fame as "Josh Lyman" on the hit series *The West Wing*. Growing up in Wisconsin, Whitford studied theater and English literature at Wesleyan University and attended the Juilliard Theater Center. After a professional debut in the off-Broadway production of *Curse of the Starving Class* opposite Kathy Bates, he also appeared in such stage productions as *Three Days of Rain*, *Measure for Measure* and *Coriolanus* (title role). Bradley's film credits include *Kate and Leopold*, *The Muse*, *Bicentennial Man*, *Scent of a Woman*, *Philadelphia*, *The Client*, and *Presumed Innocent*. Bradley won two consecutive ensemble SAG Awards and an Emmy for Supporting Actor for his work in *The West Wing*.



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