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Best Job Ever

When you stop to think about it, being a grandparent is a pretty great gig: you've got all the joy of parenting with added experience and perspective. In Jewish tradition, the concept of *l'dor vador* ("from generation to generation") refers to the important role older family members play by passing down traditions. It's an impulse that comes naturally to grandparents, who have a lot of wisdom and humor to share. What better way to do that than by drinking tea, singing songs, and (of course!) reading books together? And these days, you don't have to live nearby to make it happen! To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/teawithzayde.

HANDS ON!

Have a Cuppa

Want to have a tea party like the child in this book? Here are ideas for setting one up – no hot beverages required.

Supplies:

Stuffed animals
Cups and teapot
Play dough (optional)

Set up your animal guests around the table.
Make sure each animal has their own teacup.

The grandpa in this story can't have a muffin because he's too far away. But you can make "muffins" – or crumpets, biscuits, or scones – for each of your guests with the play dough.

Welcome all your guests warmly. Pour "tea" into each teacup, then make pleasant conversation.

If you'd like, invite a faraway grandparent or special friend to join you via computer screen, just like the child does in this book.

Day In, Day Out

Jewish families the world over share many rituals – eating a special meal on Shabbat, lighting candles for Hanukkah, dressing up for Purim. But each family also creates their own family rituals, like a geography-defying "time for tea at half past three." There's a reason that we tend to come up with our own family rituals – they're comforting and grounding for children and adults alike. We can tell that the ritual of tea with Zayde is familiar, intimate, and something that both parties look forward to, each and every day.

A Rose by Any Other Name

The grandpa in this story goes by zayde, which means "grandfather" in Yiddish, the language once dominant in the Eastern and Central European Jewish community. Other grandfathers might be called nono, the term in Ladino (spoken by Spanish Jews), or saba, which is Hebrew. But the options don't stop there – there's tata or opa or gigi or, yes, grandpa! And that's not even considering the unique names that grandchildren come up with on their own!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

THE child in this book pretends to be a lion and ro-ro-roars! Can you pretend to be a lion?

THE child in this book calls her grandfather Zayde. What names do you have for grandparents and special people in your life?

THE child in this story has teatime with her grandfather. What do you like to do with grandparents and older friends?