

Grandma's Treasured Shoes

By Coral Vass & Illustrated by Christina Huynh

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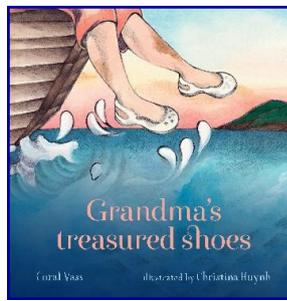
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Grandma has oodles and oodles of shoes!

Walking shoes, dancing shoes, fancy and plain, Grandma has a shoe for every occasion. So why are these scratched and dusty old ones so special?

Through read-along, rhythmic text and colourful images of all types of shoes, we follow Grandma from her home country, wearing her 'roaming shoes and weary shoes', on a boat with her 'salty but free shoes' and into her new life where she wears 'tiny shoes, school shoes, red shoes and blue shoes'. Yet her memories remain with the 'scratched and scuffed shoes' in the cupboard — the 'weary little pair that led her here'.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Shoes, special Things
- New beginnings
- Refugees and immigration

Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Discuss why people keep and treasure certain items.
- Ask students about their shoes. Where do they wear certain types of shoes? Which are their favourites and why?
- What are the most popular shoes in your class? Why did so many people chose that type of shoe? What can you do in those shoes? Why is it important to wear the right sorts of shoes for various activities?
- How has childhood changed since your parents or grandparents were children? Did they wear the same clothes or play with the same toys as you do today? Discuss what has changed and what has stayed the same.
- *Grandma's Treasured Shoes* features many of the shoes grandma has had during her lifetime. Talk to your parents or grandparents and find out what their favourite shoes were when they were little.
- Discuss how people in Australia have come from many parts of the world to create our multicultural nation.
- To create the illustrations for *Grandma's Treasured Shoes*, illustrator Christina Huynh used reference photographs of her grandparents' lives in Vietnam. Talk to your parents or grandparents about where they lived when they were children and look at old family photographs with them. Make a collage of photographs and/or cut-out images to show some of the places where members of your family lived as children.
- Discuss the different types of family relationships and the range of places students' family members have come from. Share stories about the students' experiences of living in or visiting other countries. What was similar to where they live now? What was different?
- Discuss the differences and similarities between Grandma's life in Vietnam and her new life in Australia.
- Write a story from the point of view of the shoes Grandma wore when she lived in the small village in Vietnam many years ago. What was her life like? Who did she live with? What was her home like? What chores did she have to do?
- Discuss how war affects the civilians who live in a war zone. How does it impact on their daily lives?
- How might you feel living in a country where you do not understand the language and the customs are very different to what you are used to? How can you help people settle into your country when they first arrive and make them feel welcome?
- How did Grandma's experiences shape the sort of person she became? What are some ways of coping with difficult experiences?