



Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

by Mem Fox

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge is a touching story with a cast of intergenerational characters. Young Wilfrid Gordon lives next to an old people's home, and he knows every resident. Wilfrid Gordon has one particular friend in the home, Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper. Miss Nancy has lost her memory. So that he can help Miss Nancy regain hers, Wilfrid Gordon tries to understand what a memory is.

Ms. Fox's grandfather lived in an old people's home. She says, "I decided to write a book that might bring children and the elderly together in the hope that teachers would initiate the intergenerational contact."

The Reading Comprehension Best Practice for this book is studying the **Structure of The Text**. Notice the rhythm and rhyme of the responses as Wilfrid Gordon asks each character, "What is a memory?" The responses of the old people have a lovely repetitive rhythm. Preaching the beauty and power of animated oral reading, Mem Fox has crafted her text to encourage the reader to use different voices for the elderly characters. Similar to Practickle, Ms. Fox encourages repeated reading of a book to discover deeper meaning in the text.

In the Third Reading - Activity Options, you will see a journaling idea to encourage the sharing of memories from both the listener and the reader. You'll be encouraged to share your memories in the same text structure as the residents of the old people's home did.

After your journaling, you'll echo the words of Mr. Drysdale when asked, "What's a memory?"

"Something as precious as gold, young man, something as precious as gold."