



Generations  
Working  
Together



# PLAY AND STORYTELLING THE INTERGENERATIONAL BOOKLIST.



“ We are grateful to all contributors for suggestions and recommendations.

These titles are offered as potential resources to consider, but not necessarily endorsed by Generations Working Together. ”



## Play and Storytelling

These are the rich golden threads that bind us in the journey through our own lives, and those of all around us.

Storytelling and play are vital for all human beings, they help us thrive. Both support understanding and development of expression, compassion, learning and sharing of knowledge. Both help us develop as individuals and as members of our communities. Both are essential from cradle to grave.

Play and Storytelling support us to persevere, deal with traumatic or challenging experiences, ask for or find help, be adventurous, be joyful, relax and lift or soothe our spirits and more - as both inspire and motivate us, help us to make sense of the world around us and to communicate our thoughts, needs and to build relationships.

Play and storytelling support a rights-based approach – through sharing our stories (spoken, sung, written or played) and hearing those of others, we add value, we connect, we learn and build empathy.

To learn more about Play and Storytelling, the Intergenerational Way, follow either link. [Generations Working Together](#) or [Play Scotland](#) and join us on a journey to enrich the lives of all who can experience play, story and time - together.

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## Booklist to support intergenerational learning and relationships alongside helping to tackle stereotypes

We would like to share this booklist to support practitioners to introduce and support the development of intergenerational relationships, intergenerational learning and to help tackle stereotypes, with a key focus on ageism. Some other web / online resources are also noted on the last page. This is in no way an exhaustive list, but many relationships and situations are included – from fun and friendships, grandparents and grandchildren’s shared experiences (for ideas and inspiration), to resilience and learning about challenges children, young people or older people may experience, including health issues and bereavement.

This resource was created to accompany our **Play and Storytelling the Intergenerational Way Toolkit** but can also be used as a standalone resource.

Books and other suggestions should be considered in terms of opening conversations; introducing the idea of relationships between older and younger people; recognising skills, needs and interests as well as gently exploring more sensitive situations to build awareness, compassion and useful strategies to cope with changing relationships or new experiences. Sensitive situations could refer to disability, trauma, bereavement, elderly friends or family going into longterm care – or conditions which are not instantly apparent such dementia, autism, ADHD or more. The **aim** of the booklist is to help **source** books which may form part of preparation work, or **support** issues which arise as the group work develops or to accompany / **inspire** activities.





The discussions, play and re-telling of stories inspired by the books and materials are where the learning opportunities really exist, so we hope you find this a useful starting point. (Some books are available as online versions only, so do consider what works best for your group and situation).

Many of the books are suitable for early years (0-8yrs), most will cover primary aged children and some through to teenagers and adults. Consider picture books as ones which will support conversation for anyone (any age) where reading text or speaking English is challenging or not possible.

Check [Scottish Book Trust](#) for books / songs / rhymes in other languages also. ([Bookbug App](#) can offer support for this also). You Tube can also have many short stories being read (but listen / watch first to decide if the reading would work for your group). **Personal stories captured in print work in the same way and can often be particularly special for local connections.**

You can also find out more about free books for care experienced or kinship children 0-5 yrs from [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#).

To obtain these books, consider borrowing from public or private libraries, buying pre-loved as well as new or developing a shared library with others. At time of development, we found these books to be available in paperback, hardback picture books and / or e-books through general sources such as Amazon UK, Vooks, Waterstones, World of Books and more. A very small number were highly recommended by IG practitioners but we only found them through You Tube read-a-story sites, so we have included them on that basis.

## Steps to Storytelling Success

You can also check for books with / through your local **library**, ask for **donations** and check **charity shops**. **Sharing** resources and rotating them with other groups can be a wonderful way of **reducing expense**.

If building a shared library - **plan it together**. What makes it accessible, appealing and what can help it extend to support storytelling and reading across the different age groups when they are together?

You are a **prop** too – think facial expressions / body language, voices / accents, simple dress up / actions – so have fun! You don't have to be a drama student or professional actor, but practice these things, it will really help to **get comfortable** with a **playful approach** to storytelling.

**Props and sensory prompts** can help bring it to life – so think what could add to your use of stories, including actions, particularly for repetitive bits of text. Are there actions, scents or sounds that could be encouraged?

**Rhyming books** are great for young children, and those with some additional support needs, but can also work really well with older people finding text more difficult, for intergenerational fun generally, as well as for adults / older children for whom English is a second or other language.

When reading a story or poem, remember basic principles. Know the story well yourself **before** reading / sharing. It will help you in delivery and in recall, especially if / when interrupted when engaging intergenerationally.

Let us know of new suggestions you think would work well for this resource.

## Books that feature relationships and situations which can support intergenerational conversations and understanding

Title	Author	Blurb
Wilfrid Gordon MacDonald Partridge <i>Author's note - My grandfather, Wilfrid Partridge, lived in an old people's home in North Adelaide. I noticed—and mourned—the lack of children. Old people and children get along brilliantly, yet here they were, separated from each other by the craziness of our society. So I decided to write a book that might bring children and the elderly together in the hope that teachers might initiate the inter-generational contact.</i>	Mem Fox	Wilfrid Gordon MacDonald Partridge lives next door to a nursing home. When he finds out that his special friend, Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper is losing her memory he sets out to find what a memory is.
When I grow up I want to be a Carer	Jenni Mack	A young boy's thoughts of where he could fit into the social care framework when he grows up.
Catch us if you can	Catherine MacPhail	Rory and his grandfather go on the run when his grandfather's illness means they will both have to go into care, in separate institutions. When they finally succumb to the authorities, Rory's estranged father saves the day.
The Granny Project	Anne Fine	A funny look at tough issues. Two children think of ways to stop their parents putting their granny into a care home.
15 Things not to do with a granny	Margaret McAllister	A funny and heartwarming picturebook to share.
Danny Chung does not do maths	Maisie Chan	An eleven-year-old boy of Chinese parents finally gets to do what he really wants to do, through the unexpected influence of his aged grandmother who comes to live with the family. For readers 9-11 yrs
Travels with my granny	Juliet Rix	A lovely simple story which tackles dementia in a sensitive and gentle manner. The illustrations are very bright, colourful and slightly zany. Good to use in early primary and PSHE lessons.

Title	Author	Blurb
Finding Granny	Kate Simpson	Edie doesn't recognise her beloved grandmother after a stroke. It's not until Edie watches one of Granny's art therapy sessions that she begins to recognise the Granny she loves, is still there. Changing relationships and the bond between children and grandparents is sensitively explored in this book.
Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus! Scots grandchildren on their grannies	Allan Morrison	Humour and fun for all ages based on Scottish (and Glaswegian) humour and wit.
Grandad and John	Jeanne Willis	A boy describes his close relationship with his grandad, who is his main carer.
The Forgettery	Rachel Ip	Sensitive introduction to dementia / forgetfulness through Amelia and her grandmother.
My Grandpa	Marta Altes	This story illustrates the close relationship between a boy and his grandfather.
My Grandpa is amazing My Grandma is wonderful	Nick Butterworth	Grandparents seen through the eyes of the children. Celebrating the special bonds between the different generations.
Shu Lin's Grandpa	Matt Goodfellow	When a Shu Lin starts a new school, she finds it hard to interact with her classmates until her grandfather visits to show the class his Chinese paintings.
Butterflies for Grandpa Joe	Nicola Davies	Grandpa Joe is in mourning for his wife and finding life hard, so his grandson endeavours to help him through reigniting his passion for butterflies.
When Grandpa gives you a toolbox.	Jamie Deenihan	A young boy is disappointed with the birthday present from his grandpa, until he realises what potential it offers.
Grandpa's Guardian Angel	Jutta Bauer	With gentle visual humour, Jutta Bauer's simple story shows how Grandpa's charmed life may be due to someone special watching over him all along.
Not a Box	Antoinette Portis	Imagination prompt for young and for those young at heart.



Title	Author	Blurb
Half a Man 	Michael Morpurgo	Morpurgo draws upon the experience of his relationship with his grandfather the the story of how he sustained his horrific injuries in World War II. In getting to know the story, he connects more and sees beyond the scars, so helping to heal some of the family scars also.
Finn's Garden Friends	Rachel Lawton	A lovely book perfect for the inner-city nature fan. Sweet, detailed illustrations of city wildlife and a pleasing story make for an ideal addition to any library or classroom. Nature facts at the end add to the charm.
My grandparents love me	Claire Freedman	A pleasing celebration of the role grandparents play. Enjoyable sharing read.
Harry Miller's Run	David Almond	The story of keen runner Liam's elderly neighbour's (and friends) long distance run, to reach the beach, when they were children. (7-11 yrs)
Katie Morag series (Picture books to short novels 3-9 yrs).	Mairi Hedderwick	Katie Morag books contrast between Island life and city life, exploring the community when at home or visiting Mainland Granny. A wonderful way to explore memories and compare lifestyles, to learn more about different ways of life, past and present.
My two grannies	Floella Benjamin	Multicultural. Alvina loves both her grannies, but they are very different. When they both come to stay and look after her, things get a bit tricky – but Alvina finds a way to make it work.
Shoebox Sam	Mary Brigid Barrett	Delia and Jessie spend Saturdays with Shoebox Sam, helping him with customers, rich and poor. They learn about giving and caring, loving and sharing. Then one day, when a customer notices a prized pair of shoes, they uncover their greatest lesson of all.
The Hundred Penny Box	Sharon Bell Mathis	Michael loves his great-great-aunt Dew, even if she can't always remember his name. He especially loves to spend time with her and her beloved hundred penny box, listening to stories about each of the hundred years of her life. Michael understands that the box itself is as important to Aunt Dew as the memories it contains.

Title	Author	Blurb
Hand over Hand 	Alma Fullerton	Nina can't convince her Lolo to take her fishing with him on his old banca boat. "A boat is no place for a girl." When Nina promises to bait her own hook and remove her own catch, her grandfather finally relents "just for today." The other fishermen mock, but no one is laughing when Nina brings in the biggest fish of the day! Cultures, experiences, age, gender and relationships all roll into this story, which can be found online too.
The Grannyman	Judy Schnachner	The title may confuse; this story is about a very old cat Simon and a new young kitten. How Simon's role changes!
Our Grandparents: A Global Album	Maya Ajmera	Grandpa, Bibi, Yeye and Grann . . .  This striking album captures the intergenerational relationships between children and grandparents around the world.
The Old Woman Who Named Things	Cynthia Rylant	Keeping loneliness at bay as an old lady is hard, so she names things that she won't outlive—like her house, Franklin, and her bed, Roxanne. But what about the puppy who turns up? A heartwarming story of an old woman who doesn't know she's lonely until she meets a plucky puppy who needs a name—and someone to love.
These Hands	Margaret H. Mason	Joseph's grandpa could do almost anything with his hands. He could play the piano, throw a curveball, and tie a triple bowline knot in three seconds flat. But in the 1950s and 60s, factory bosses said white people would not want to eat bread touched by the hands of the African Americans who worked there. Use book to explore injustice, discrimination with young children.
Granpa Green	Lane Smith	Granpa Green has been many things in his lifetime, as well as a wonderful gardener. Follow his grandson through a garden where memories are handed down through the shapes of topiary trees and imagination recreates things forgotten.

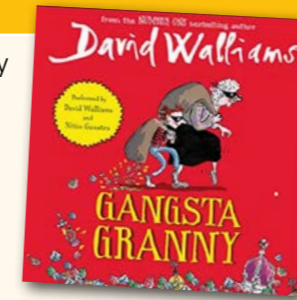
Title	Author	Blurb
The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything	Linda D. Williams	Once upon a time, there was a little old lady who was not afraid of anything! But one autumn night, while walking in the woods, the little old lady heard . . . <i>clomp, clomp, shake, shake, clap, clap</i> . Particularly written for Hallowe'en time.
Granpa Green	Lane Smith	Granpa Green has been many things in his lifetime, as well as a wonderful gardener. Follow his grandson through a garden where memories are handed down through the shapes of topiary trees and imagination recreates things forgotten.
Tea with Grandpa	Barney Saltzberg	In this sweetly simple, rhyming picture book by acclaimed author/artist Barney Saltzberg, a little girl tells us about her daily tea ritual with her grandfather where they sing and laugh and clink their teacups with the help of their computers and a video chat.
Harry and Walter 	Kathy Stinson	Best friends forever. Harry may be four and three-quarters and Walter may be ninety-two and a half, but that doesn't stop them from being best friends. Harry loves to go next door to play games with Walter and draw pictures together. And when the snow falls, Walter clears a path to Harry's house so that they can visit every day, but now Harry is moving.
The Doorbell Rang	Pat Hutchens	A fun book to link to a baking activity. Ma has made a dozen delicious cookies. It should be plenty for her two children. But then the doorbell rings-and rings and rings and rings.
The Paper Dolls	Julia Donaldson	A string of paper dolls go on a fantastical adventure through the house and out into the garden. They soon escape the clutches of the toy dinosaur and the snapping jaws of the oven-glove crocodile, but then a very real pair of scissors threatens! A delightful book to link with craft activity while it explores issues around memory and loss.
Song and Dance Man	Karen Ackerman	A special story about 3 grandchildren being treated to a show by their grandfather, who used to perform on Vaudeville. A lovely way to explore stories, dance / music / song and even magic tricks, between young and old.
The Friday Nights of Nana	Amy Hest	Tradition, love, generations and celebration as Jennie and Nana prepare for the Sabbath.

Title	Author	Blurb
A Small Thing....but Big	Tony Johnston	A story of friendship, fears, trust and resilience when Lizzie meets an elderly gentleman at the park – and his big dog!
When Granma gives you a lemon tree	Jamie Deenihan	A girl is initially disappointed with the lemon tree that her grandmother gives her for her birthday but discovers the potential of this unusual gift when she looks after it.
The Planet in a Pickle	Martin Stavev	Visiting gran is not exciting for then the children – then it is!
Mr. George Baker	Amy Hest	George Baker and Harry don't seem the likeliest of friends but the two have plenty in common, this 100 yr old musician and this young schoolboy. They're both learning to read, which is hard — but what's easy is the warm friendship they share. In an inspired pairing pays tribute to the power of language and intergenerational bonds.
This is the Challah	Sue Hepker	Bubbe (grandma) is preparing for Shabbat and her granddaughter gets to help with a very important part: baking the challah. Fun and time together matters most.
Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah	Amy Hest	Though it's the first night of Hanukkah, Rachel's family won't really be celebrating until next week. But Rachel wants to celebrate now, so she comes up with a good idea: she'll visit her neighbour, Mrs. Greenberg, and they can make latkes together.
Sunshine Home	Eve Bunting	Timmie doesn't understand why no-one seems bothered about his Grandma now being in a residential home.
The Wednesday Surprise	Eve Bunting	7yr old Anna and Grandma plan and work together to create the most amazing surprise for Dad's birthday – and share stories in such a special way!
A Great Big Book about Families	Mary Hoffman	Explore family links across different generations and backgrounds.
Odd Dog Out	Rob Biddulph	Conversation starter around feeling like the odd one out / fitting in.
Out Out on Bikes with Grampy, 	by Anna Jarvis with Play Together on Pedals.	Adventure and learning about how to look after bikes is shared when this little girl heads out with her bike-loving grampy.

Title	Author	Blurb
Miss Tizzy	Libba Moore Gray	Miss Tizzy is a favourite with the children, she makes them feel special and happy, but what can the children do when Miss Tizzy is unwell?
My Grandfather's Coat	Jim Aylesworth	Follow the rhyming and entertaining tale of a clever Grandpa, his recycled coat over 4 generations and the making of a story.
Grandma Rose's Magic	Linda Flovitz Marshall	Can sewing make magic? Yes, if it's done by kind-hearted Grandma Rose. Every day she sews, and every day she saves to buy a beautiful set of dishes, just like the ones her grandmother used on Shabbos. A story highlighting community and culture.
Where Three Oceans Meet	Rajani Larocca	Culture, multi-generational and exploration combine in this beautiful story, centred around Sejal and her Pati (grandmother).
Between the Lines	Lindsay Ward	Connecting communities – the actions of one young boy bring back 'the colour' to their street
Bumpety Bump	Pat Hutchins	A boy helps his grandfather on the farm, showing the little red hen that follows them all that he can do.
<b>Peg, Puddin' and Me</b>	Jennifer Mijatovic	Funded by Life Changes Trust. A dementia friendly intergenerational book featuring Ayrshire landmark.
Nana Akua Goes To School	Rina Singh and Ellen Rooney	This beautiful picture book offers a helpful perspective on cultural differences within a heartening family story. Walker offers a compelling portrait of a grandmother whose pride and poise build confidence.
Ten Ways To Hear Snow	Cathy Camper	A snowy day, a trip to Grandma's, time spent cooking with one another, and space to pause and discover the world around you come together.
<b>Ms Ruby and The Gigi Squad</b>	Vickie Rodgers and Vidya Valsudevan	Written by nurse educator based on own experiences, to encourage intergenerational relationships.
The way back home	Allan Stratton	Older children / teens: Alzheimer's, transgender, family estrangement and adult theme of male prostitution alluded to within context. Characters – teen girl, grandmother and extended family (with their networks).



Title	Author	Blurb
Gangsta Granny	David Walliams	The relationship, stories, adventures and unexpected twists all highlight the special joy between these two different generations, through their shared love and respect for each other. The humour, twist on responsibility focus on connection, fun & playfulness help bring the family together when they most need each other.
Grandpa's Great Escape	David Walliams	An exquisite portrait of the bond between a small boy and his beloved Grandpa – this book takes readers on an incredible journey with Spitfires over London and Great Escapes through the city in a high-octane adventure full of comedy and heart.
The Littlest Yak	Lu Fraser & Kate Hindley	Explores desire to grow older / be bigger, but highlights how capable Little Yak is, despite being small and young. A beautiful book to explore ageism.
Lovely Old Lion	Susan Varley	Gently explores dementia and encourages discussion
All Kinds of Families	Sophy Henn	Family and social structures are contained with the simple text. Lovely way of exploring different connections with young and old together.
How to babysit a Grandma or Grandpa and How to read to a Grandma or Grandpa	Jean Reagan	Wonderful humorous books to engage both young and old with some key messages contained in the text relating to relationships.
Grandpa Frank's Great Big Bucket List	Jenny Pearson	Frank unexpectedly inherits £500,000 from a Grandma he didn't know he had, but it comes with a grumpy Grandpa he didn't know either. In time, Frank discovers relationships are priceless.
The Wonky Donkey (& series)	Craig Smith	Written with humour and rhyming – for a very joyful experience, watch and listen to <b>The Scottish Granny</b> or the <b>song</b> which Craig Smith wrote and inspired the books that followed.
Midnight Guardians	Ross Montgomery	This story centres around a young boy, set in WW2 times and the blitz, separating him from his sister. His adventure to help her is aided by 'his guardians' and his departed father – and joined by another young girl with a secret. The relationships support them all, with the children taking both the lead, and yet learning also from the Guardians and their characters.





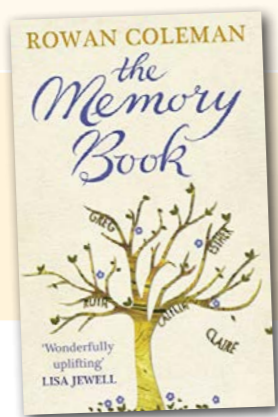
Title	Author	Blurb
Tarbolton Story Book and Community bingo games	Jackie Blair and community contributors	Photo story book set within community exploring relationships and the different ages / generations within the community – and how they connect.
'Haud Yer Wheesht!' Your Scottish Granny's Favourite Sayings (and series)	Allan Morrison	A humorous collection which to promote chat and memories, sharing dialect and exploring sayings.
Not a box	Antionette Portis	Exploring play and imagination in simple text and drawings, ideal for using to support or develop intergenerational play sessions.
The Adventures of Rascally Rabbit	Pete Rumney	Beautiful book by artist Pete Rumney, that includes a playful game, searching for bunny on each page – but the different paintings offer wonderful openings to discuss the scenes and experiences that both children and adults can relate to.
Apple Tree Farm	Heather Amery	Similar to above, each page on the farm has a little rubber duck to be found, so the book offers a playful game as well as wonderful text full of charm, humour and stories from 'on the farm'.
The Invisible String	Patrice Karst	Building a sense of connection to help support or replace feelings of isolation or disconnection from loved ones is beautifully explored in this book. An example of the potential for remote / virtual relationships.
My Grandma Lives in a Treehouse	Christopher Quirk	Lots of fun in this book about a grandmother who lives in a treehouse will have you and your child chuckling as you follow the story. The book is written for an age range of 0-5 but is perfect as a first picture book to read to your little one.
The More the Merrier	Anne Fine	Ralph's relatives are coming for Christmas – lots of them, including Great Granny who says 'inappropriate things' and Great Aunt Ada, who often wanders.
Celia and Nonna	Victoria Lane	Grandparents ageing is a universal experience, yet it is rarely told in picture book form. In this story, young Celia finds a delightful and positive way to navigate this confusing time.

**TOP TIP** : Many of these books sensitively approach dementia and 'forgetting / confusion' in the older adult, but with a loving approach, and sometimes a 'fun one' too, so add them to your 'set of tools for life' whenever you can.

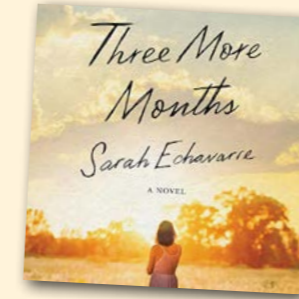
## Books about death and dying

Title	Author	Blurb
Grandad's Bench	Andy Farmer	This story supports coming to terms with the death of a grandparent. Ages 6-9
The Mountains of Tibet (May be hard to find in print currently)	Mordecai Gerstein	A Tibetan woodcutter dreams of exploring the world, but is too busy with his life to ever leave his valley. After he dies he is taken on a journey through the cosmos and all of the places on earth as he makes choices that lead him to a new life.
The Memory Tree Grief support doc from Scottish Book Trust	Britta Teckentrup	Fox has lived a long and happy life, but now he is tired. He takes his last breath and dies. His friends spend the night looking back at the joyful moments they spent together. When morning arrives, a small tree has grown in the spot where fox died. It is a place of comfort and protection for the forest animals. And so, 'fox lived on in their hearts forever'.
The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A story of life for all ages	Leo Buscaglia	Timeless and gentle book e-book and short film. A warm, thought-provoking story about how Freddie and his companion leaves change with the passing seasons and the coming of winter.
Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children	Bryan Mellonie	This sensitive book is a useful tool in explaining to children that death is a part of life and that, eventually, all living things reach the end of their own special lifetimes
The Heart and the Bottle	Oliver Jeffers	The author explores themes of love and loss in this life-affirming and uplifting tale and shows us that there is always hope.
My Nana's Garden	Dawn Casey	Seasons, connection, love and learning.
Always Remember	Cece Meng	After Old Turtle swims his last swim and breathes his last breath, and the waves gently take him away, his friends lovingly remember how he impacted them. They realise that he is not truly gone, because his memory and legacy will last forever.
I miss you. A first look at death	Pat Thomas	This book helps children understand that death is a part of life. Thomas, a psychotherapist and counsellor, promotes positive interaction among children and adults.

Title	Author	Blurb
Grandad's Island	Benji Davies	Syd and Grandad love spending time together and imagining special places. Grandad takes Syd to his amazing island, but Grandad needs to remain there so Syd must hug him and 'sail home' alone.
A Stone for Sascha	Aaron Becker	A young girl learns to live with her loss for his beloved pet.
Grandpa's Boat	Michael Catchpool	Since Grandpa's death, his family have left his boat, The Periwinkle, untouched. One day they decide to repair the boat in memory of Grandpa and find that it is better to remember than to forget.
Badger's Parting Gifts		Ageing physically and dying are sensitively approached.
Our Tree Named Steve	Alan Zweibel	Somehow, Steve becomes a very special member of the family, almost like a grandfather in the end.
My Grandma's Photos	Ozge Bahar Sunar	Ali sits with grandma who doesn't see, hear or remember things well now, but together they explore her wooden trunk of old photos and explore her life journey, her memories until she dances where he cannot follow, and she tells him he must make his memories as well as enjoy hers.
The Godmothers	Monica McInerney	For Adults / older teens. Family dynamics, facing death as a child, finding the love and strength of 'elders' is woven into the story which also highlights the joy of a friendship between 11 and 30 yr old. Touching on living with dementia as a carer, LBQT and mental illness, the stories of each character support the complexities they all face.
Michael Rosen's Sad Book	Michael Rosen	A story written from the author's own experience of losing his son. For 7 yrs up, this book goes beyond picture book basis and may support conversation around grief and loss.
The Memory Book	Rowan Coleman	For older teens / adults. A novel about Claire and her mother, Caitlin her 20 yr old daughter, Esther her 3 yr old daughter, husband Greg, her deceased father – alzheimer's and a lifetime becoming too short. Breaking stereotypes and living life fully are the order of the day.



Title	Author	Blurb
Three More Months	Sarah Echavarre	For Adults / older teens. A sudden family death throws the adult children in to their worst fear. Something strange and alarming happens, but it brings deeper appreciation and understanding of their culture, family dynamics, an absentee father and the beautiful teachings from those who have lived their lives fully, without regret and with a belief in family, different generations and being yourself. It's the relationships that matter most.
Finding Chika (True story)	Mitch Albom	Adopting Chika was not on the cards, but her short life taught the author so much and explores the gifts shared with each other through their intergenerational relationship.
Tibble and Grandpa	Wendy Meddour	With persistence, a little boy helps his grandpa get over the death of his wife.
Unbecoming	Jenny Downham	3 generations, dementia and a lot to learn about each other. A book written while the author's own mother was living with alzheimers and died. (Older teens / adults)



### Intergenerational Collections

Various titles with intergenerational focus.	Lindsay McDivitt	<b>Lindsey McDivitt</b> is an author and illustrator with a strong intergenerational focus. Her books relate to positive messages within the text and positive images. Her website includes all this and more.
Various titles with intergenerational links.	Britta Teckentrup	<b>Britta Teckentrup</b> is an award winning artist who has used her talents to create several beautiful picture books.

## Books featuring inspirational older people

Title	Author	Blurb
Henri's Scissors	Jeanette Winter	Based on the life of Henri Matisse, this moving and inspirational picture book biography focusses on a serious illness which confined Matisse to a wheelchair, and amazingly. It was from there, in later life, that he created enormous and breathtaking paper cut-outs.
The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau	Michelle Markel	Rousseau had no training, was a self-taught artist who had harsh critics, but he persevered and created artwork, now hung in galleries all around the world.
Edgar Degas: Paintings That Dance	Maryann Cocco-Leffler	Edgar Degas is famous for his paintings of ballerinas, and that's what first attracts Kristin to his artwork. But as she studies him, she discovers that his art ranged far beyond the ballet and she gradually learns exactly what makes Degas's work so unique. (Ages 9-12)
Miss Colfax's Light	Aimee Bissonette	In 1861, at the age of 37, Harriet Colfax took on the job of lighthouse keeper for the Michigan City lighthouse off Lake Michigan, she continued until she was 80. It was a bold and determined endeavour. Excerpts from her actual log are included.
<b>The Old Man and His Penguin</b>	Alayne Kay Christian	A tale featuring the kindness and caring of 'the old man', showing how love and care can support even very unlikely relationships and consider what pollution does. A lovely prep story to use with young children (early to mid primary).
Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist	Jess Keating	Eugenie Clark fell in love with sharks instantly, but soon discovered that many people believed sharks to be ugly and scary—and they didn't think women should be scientists. Determined to prove them wrong, Eugenie devoted her life to learning about sharks, wrote herself into the history of science, earning the nickname "Shark Lady."
The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps	Jeanette Winter	Follow Jane from her childhood in London, to her years in the African forests of Gombe, Tanzania, observing chimps, to her worldwide crusade to save these primates who are now in danger of extinction, and their habitat. Young animal lovers and Winter's many fans will welcome this fascinating and moving portrait of an extraordinary person and the animals to whom she has dedicated her life.

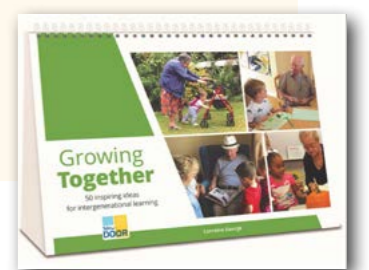
Title	Author	Blurb
Nature's Friend the Gwen Frostic Story	Lindsey McDivitt	The art and writing of Gwen Frostic are well known, but this picture book biography tells the story behind Gwen's famous work. After a debilitating illness as a child, Gwen sought solace in art and nature. She learned to be persistent and independent--never taking no for an answer or letting her disabilities define her. She dedicated her work and her life to reminding people of the wonder and beauty in nature.
When Grandma Gatewood Took a Hike	Michelle Houts	The first children's book about Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, the first woman to solo hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, which she accomplished without professional gear or even a tent. This chronicles the spirit of a strong-willed, seasoned outdoorswoman and mother of eleven whose grit and determination helped her to hike over two thousand miles, on the journey she initially called a "lark." (Ages 4-10).
Bottle Houses: The Creative World of Grandma Prisbey	Melissa Eskridge Slaymaker	A vibrant portrait of American visionary artist Grandma Prisbey, who decorated houses with colourful bottles and a good introduction to the world of folk art and creativity.
<b>Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton</b>	Don Tate	From illiteracy and slavery to freedom and poetry. You can hear the author share his story
Aging Gracefully: Portraits of People Over 100	Karsten Thormaehlen	<i>Aging Gracefully</i> invites readers to look into the face of a century of life experience with portraits of centenarians captured through the camera lens. Each photograph is accompanied by short bios of the centenarians, featuring quotes and wisdom on love, food, humour and living with grace.
A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams	Jen Bryant	What does it mean to be an adult? Do we judge everyone by their job (stereotyping)? Does being busy as an adult mean we need to stop playing, being creative and doing what we love? When Willie wrote, his words gave him freedom and peace, but he was really a doctor-- one of the busiest men in town! In this picture book biography of William Carlos Williams. Jen Bryant's engaging prose and Melissa Sweet's stunning mixed-media illustrations celebrate this amazing man.
I, Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark	Debbie Levy	Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has spent a lifetime disagreeing: disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment, and standing up for what's right for people everywhere. This biographical picture book about the Notorious RBG, tells the justice's story through the lens of her many famous dissents, or disagreements.
<b>Miss Rumphius</b>	Barbara Cooney	Based on the story of Hilda Edwards Hamlin who emigrated from England to USA. Alice Rumphius was inspired, as a child, by her grandfather and she longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful.

Title	Author	Blurb
A Plan for the People: Nelson Mandela's Hope for His Nation	Lindsey McDivitt	Nelson Mandela stood against apartheid. This stirring biography explores Mandela's long fight for equality and the courage that propelled him through decades of struggle. Illustrated in the bold, bright colours of South Africa, A Plan for the People captures the spirit of a leader beloved around the world.
Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Candy Statton and the Right to Vote.	Tanya Lee Stone	Elizabeth stood up and fought for what she believed in. From an early age, she knew that women were not given rights equal to men. But rather than accept her lesser status, Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote.
Amelia to Zora: 26 women who changed the world.	Cynthia Chin-Lee	This book provides capsule biographies of 26 women from the 20th century who made their mark on history! Each biography includes a distinctive quote that captures the spirit of the woman featured. It's an empowering reminder of the incredible women who blazed trails for the girls of today — and tomorrow.
Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World	Kate Pankhurst	Bursting full of beautiful illustrations and astounding facts, <i>and written by descendant of Emmeline Pankhurst, Suffragette</i> , this book is an excellent introduction to just a few of the most incredible women who helped shaped the world we live in. Suitable for all children ( <i>Primary aged</i> )
On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein	Jennifer Berne	Travel along with Einstein on a journey full of curiosity, laughter, and scientific discovery. Adults and children alike will appreciate this moving story of the powerful difference imagination can make in any life.
Tuesdays with Morrie	Mitch Albom	Tuesdays with Morrie; a memoir of the weekly visits between Mitch and his dying former lecturer. Morrie remained as wise and wonderful as Mitch remembered and his visits became a gift to share.
The Thursday Murder Club (series)	Richard Osman	Unlikely group of amateur detectives from care home? Perhaps not if we consider past histories and personalities.
Love Stories	Citadel Youth Group project (Zine)	An intergenerational project over pandemic, capturing stories from old and young alike sharing thoughts and insights relating to love and relationships with inclusion at the heart. ( <i>Teenagers and older</i> ) <a href="#">Citadel website</a>
Women and Girls with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Understanding life experiences from early childhood to old age.	Sarah Hendrickx & Judith Gould	A combination of research and collated personal stories, outlining how autism presents and can 'hide' in females. The authors look at how females with ASD experience all key aspects from diagnosis and childhood, education, adolescence through to parenting and old age.

A [Mighty Girl](#) website offers many more books on inspirational women and girls.

## For the adults involved: Resources for practitioners/leads

Title	Author	Blurb
In the Arms of Elders: A Parable of Wise Leadership and Community Building	William H. Thomas	A parable about a thriving community guided by elders on the fictional island of Kallimos provides the vision behind the author's real-life efforts in the Eden Alternative and Green House programs to replace medical-model nursing homes with healing communities.
This Chair Rocks: An Anti-Ageism Manifesto	Ashton Applewhite	Lively, funny, and deeply researched, <i>This Chair Rocks</i> traces the author's journey and in the process debunks myth after myth about late life. Explaining the roots of ageism and how it divides and debases, Applewhite examines how ageist stereotypes cripple the way our brains and bodies function. She describes what an all-age-friendly world would look like, and offers a rousing call to action
Life Lessons from the Oldest & Wisest	David Romanelli	Let wellness innovator "Yeah Dave" (featured in The New York Times and O, The Oprah Magazine) share the experience of our elders, a mix of history, wisdom, and <i>joie de vivre</i> , which is our most precious resource.
The Value of Wrinkles	Isabel Tom	What if we have it all wrong? Isabel Tom grew up living with grandparents and has spent over a decade working professionally with older adults. In her book, she teaches you what the elderly offer us that we cannot live without, challenges our cultural beliefs and practices that affect the aging and gives you practical insight on how to care for those older than you.
Putting storytelling at the heart of Early Years.	Editors: Tina Bruce, Lynn McNair, Jane Whinnett	An engaging and practical book that highlights the essential nature of storytelling in all walks of life and how to best cultivate this in the early years (classroom). A Froebelian approach explores the role of storytelling in the development of literacy, communication and language and for maintaining good mental health and wellbeing.
<i>Growing Together</i> , 50 inspiring ideas for intergenerational learning	Lorraine George	Wonderful ideas to inspire or develop / adapt for your groups.



Other media can support also - look out for documentaries for inspiring young and old people, for example – David Attenborough, Greta Thurnberg, Inez McCormack and others, who tackle stereotypes and break down ageism.

Photographers, bloggers, artists and poets for example: [Eyes as big as plates](#) is a thought provoking, [discussion](#) inspiring project.

I am the seed that grew the tree. A Nature Poem for every day of the year.	Fiona Watters	Poetry Collection from National Trust suitable for use with Primary & Secondary aged children. 366 poems to enjoy and savour.
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Films such as Billy Elliot can also open up conversations and understanding. Billy and his grandmother are close and loving, but his gran also 'wanders off' sometimes and gets confused.

You can find other suggestions [here](#).



## Website resources supporting intergenerational work, projects and activities:

### Generations United – Intergenerational Programs

- [Generations United – Intergenerational Shared Sites](#)
- [Playlist for Life Young Music Detectives](#)  
Playlist for Life uses the music that means something special, to weave a life story through song and melody – a wonderful way to connect and reminisce as well as get to know each other.
- [The Creation Station](#)  
Enjoying making and creating together is very playful and a wonderful way to bond, share thoughts and have the joy of making something together. Keeping brains very active and also sharing and building or maintaining physical skills also.

### Literacy:

- [Scottish Book Trust – Reading Treasure Hunts](#)
- [Scottish Book Trust – How to make Poetry Stones](#)
- [Scottish Book Trust – Reading is Caring](#)
- [Scottish Book Trust – Digital Stories](#)
- [Silver Stories](#) – Children read to their phone friends and relationships are forged.

### Other Booklists:

- [Share a Story – TOY & Children's Book Ireland](#)
- [Generations United Children's Booklist](#)
- [Doing Good Together – Intergenerational booklist](#)

### Miscellaneous:

- [Lindsey McDivitt](#) – Lindsey is a writer and advocate for intergenerational understanding
- [Teens helping Grands with tech](#) – Teens helping Grands with tech
- [Ideal 18](#) – Intergenerational coaching and consulting
- [Dorotusa](#) – Generations helping generations
- [Eisner Foundation](#)
- [Time and Place Poetry project for people living with dementia](#) – Creative Writing intergenerationally and inclusive of those living with dementia – Book of Poetry published.
- [A. is for Aging](#)
- [This chair rocks website](#) – home of Ashton Applewhite's research, writing and resources including Yo, is this ageist?
- [This chair rocks - resources](#) (other reading material suggested by Ashton Applewhite.)
- [Silver Stories Clip](#): Surprise meeting of readers and listener melts hearts.

**TedX talks:**

- Judith Ish-Horowicz
- Ashton Applewhite (& Transcript)

**Shared Site Inspiration:**

- Apples and Honey Nightingale
- Old People's Homes for 4 yr olds.
- St Monica Trust blog
- Providence - Intergenerational Learning Centre
- One Generation
- Grace Jenks
- Casala
- FSW - My Second Home
- My Little Friends Video
- Bridge Meadows
- Ebenezer Cares
- The Growing Season Trailer (Present Perfect)

Scotland currently has many shared sites on its agenda too. A mixture of co-located settings and intergenerational hubs through to intergenerational villages, all in various stages along the consultation, planning and building process. To find out more please join the GWT Intergenerational Housing, Places and Spaces network.

We hope this resource can continue to be updated and invite suggestions accordingly. Developed with gratitude to all who have contributed to this "live" booklist.

Roots and Sprouts, New York (Little Leaf and Hudson Lab School) – Joanne Corrigan

East Lothian Libraries – Senior Librarian, Children, Schools and Young People

Apples and Honey Nightingale

Generations United - USA Share Site information.

Scottish Book Trust

Play Scotland

Generations Working Together





**Generations Working Together**

Brunswick House  
51 Wilson Street  
Glasgow G1 1UZ

[www.generationsworkingtogether.org](http://www.generationsworkingtogether.org)

**Play Scotland**

8b Hopetoun St, McDonald Road  
Edinburgh EH7 4LZ

[www.playscotland.org](http://www.playscotland.org)



**Generations  
Working  
Together**



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

