



2004

Faraway Grandpa

Sandra L. Tidwell

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Karim, Roberta. *Faraway Grandpa*. Illustrated by Ted Rand. Henry Holt & Company, 2004. ISBN 080506785X. \$16.95. 40 pp.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary, All

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Grandfathers--Juvenile fiction; Old age--Juvenile fiction; Memory loss--Juvenile fiction;

Kathleen has an especially close relationship with her personable and happy Grandpa Danny. They regularly correspond with each other and Kathleen's summer visits to Grandpa's farm are yearly highlights for both. Sitting on the porch swing and singing songs together is one of their heart-binding ties. This picture book tells of Kathleen's visit in the summer of 1916, and how Kathleen notices that Grandpa has grown very forgetful and does not remember their usual teasing games and dialogue. When Grandpa comes to live with Kathleen and her family, Kathleen discovers that their favorite song, the Irish tune "Danny Boy," can magically, if briefly, bring back Grandpa Danny's wit and cleverness. As Kathleen explained, it is because "my Grandpa Danny [listens] with his heart."

Karim's text and Rand's water color and acrylic enhanced pencil illustrations blend to present a warm inspiring story of a curious youngster who calmly and lovingly deals with a grandparent with memory loss. Although recommended for grades K-3, this title will pull at the reader's heartstrings regardless of age. Included at the end of the book are the words and music for "Danny Boy."