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I'll Be the Water: A Story of Grief, Loss, and a Grandparent's Love

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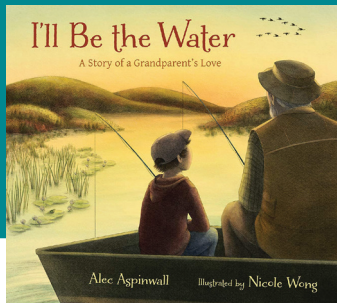
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Book Review

I'll Be the Water: A Story of Grief, Loss, and a Grandparent's Love



Author

Alec Aspinwall

Illustrator

Nicole Wong

Reviewer

Jennifer Padgett

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary

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Pages

36

Year

2020

ISBN

9780884487760

Publisher

Tilbury House Publishers

Joshua cherishes his grandpa. Together, they eat banana and peanut butter sandwiches and travel through the sea on imaginary adventures. Grandpa is full of interesting things to share, and Joshua feels invincible around him. Then one day, Joshua notices the prominence of Grandpa's wrinkles and a tremble in Grandpa's hands. His fear escalates when his grandfather goes to the hospital, and even though his dad says it will be fine, Joshua remembers all the times that simply wasn't true. During Joshua and Grandpa's last fishing trip together, they talk about life and death and what it all means, which gives Joshua the reassurance that Grandpa's spirit and love will never die.

This heartwarming story captures a sacred relationship between a grandparent and a grandchild. Joshua, like many young children, looks up to his grandpa, and it seems unfathomable to think of losing him. This concern is certainly relatable, and this book is full of thoughtful sentiments that provide healthy ways to perceive such a loss. For example, Joshua's grandfather shares that when his father died, he learned to look for him with his heart instead of his eyes. He expresses that his presence will surround his grandson forever. The final spread is a beautiful and captivating scene that shows Joshua as a parent passing on his grandfather's wisdom. Readers will be touched by this text and will remember it long after reading the last page.