

Grandma's Great Escape

Jack's grandma is not any old grandma. She's lots of things. When she was younger, she had tons of different jobs; she was a dolphin trainer, an acrobat in a circus, a professional dancer, and most importantly, she traveled around the world on adventures. Grandma learned to speak loads of languages during her travels. Even now, years later, she's still fluent in English, German, Cat, and Spanish. She remembers a little bit of Dolphin, but she would need a bit of practice before holding a full conversation with a dolphin again.

Not only has Grandma's life been very sparkly and interesting, but she's met lots of sparkly, interesting people. No matter how famous they were, they'd always be thrilled to stop and have a chat with her. That's just what Grandma's like, and Jack knows this better than anyone. Even though she's a tiny bit forgetful these days, she never forgets the important things that Jacks tells her, like how he has bad dreams sometimes when his parents argue or how he really wants to be a hockey player when he grows up. Even though her bones are creaky, she can still dance and run, and she'd probably still be able to do a backflip if the nurses at the care home would let her.

Jack goes to the care home to visit her every Saturday morning, and he stays until his dad picks him up in the evening. Their favorite spot to sit and chat is in the window seat that overlooks the garden. Normally, they manage to snatch the cookie tin out of the kitchen; Grandma distracts the cook, and Jack sneaks in and swipes the tin off the counter. It's always Grandma who gets the first pick of the cookies because she's the oldest. Jack doesn't even mind; Grandma gets away with it because she's his very favorite person.

One Saturday, they were tucked up in the window seat, digging through the cookie tin to find the biggest chocolate cookie they could find for Grandma. She let out a long, defeated sigh.

"I'm bored, Jack," Grandma said as she rolled her eyes. "Everyone in here is so..." She waved her wrinkly arm around, exasperated. "Old."



"But, Grandma..." Jack began and then hesitated for a moment, "you're quite old."

"The cheek of it!" Grandma gasped. She found a chocolate cookie at last and took a huge defiant bite out of it. "I'm not old," she grumbled as crumbs spilled out the corners of her mouth.

"Maybe you need a hobby," Jack said. "What does everyone else do for fun in here?"

Grandma stretched out her arm and pointed dramatically across the room, her eyes wide in horror. The gold bangles around her wrist rattled. In the corner, a group of other people's grandmas and granddads sat together in matching armchairs, clicking their knitting needles in the exact same rhythm. "They knit," Grandma said and took a sharp intake of breath. "I can't STAND knitting."

"Don't they have a yoga group, too?" Jack suggested delicately.

"I don't want to do yoga!" she whined. "I want to go on adventures again!"

Grandma was normally never this grumpy. Usually, she'd be halfway through telling Jack a long, elaborate story by now, with her eyes lit up and her hands clasped together in excitement.

"Well, what do you want to do? Should we ask one of the nurses if we can go for a walk?" he asked.

"They won't let us, not while it's raining like this," she said as she wistfully stroked the window with her fingertip, watching the raindrops race each other down the glass. "I used to love walking in the rain when I was your age. My sisters and I would splash in all of the puddles and get soaked. Have I ever told you about when it flooded and we had to build a raft just to get down the road?"

Her eyes glinted as she remembered. "That was an adventure I'll never forget," she said.

"I wish I could make you feel better, Grandma," Jack sighed.

"Well...maybe you can. Maybe we could go on an adventure," Grandma said as her eyes lit up again.

"But I thought you said the nurses wouldn't let you out in the rain..." Jack started.

"We could always sneak out when they're not looking... We could have our own adventure...as long as we're back for dinner," she replied. This was the most excited Grandma had looked all day. She'd finally gotten her sparkle back.

Before Jack had a chance to reply, Grandma had jumped to her feet. She wobbled slightly and steadied herself on Jack's shoulder.

"Right," she whispered in his ear, glancing across the room at the nurses. They were pottering around, balancing trays of hot milk and stopping from time to time to admire the knitting circle. "I'll get my coat. You think of a distraction."

Grandma bolted past the nurses, past the knitting circle, and into her room, pulling the door swiftly shut behind her. Jack felt his heart flip over in his chest. He couldn't bear the thought of letting Grandma down.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Writing Prompt

You have read the story "Grandma's Great Escape". Write a continuation of the story using details from the passage. Describe what you think might happen after Jack and Grandma escape. What obstacles and adventures might they face? How will the story end?

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- read the passage
- plan your story
- write your story
- revise and edit your story

Be sure to include:

- clear characters, a setting, and a plot related to the story

Your response should be in the form of a narrative. Write your response in the space provided.