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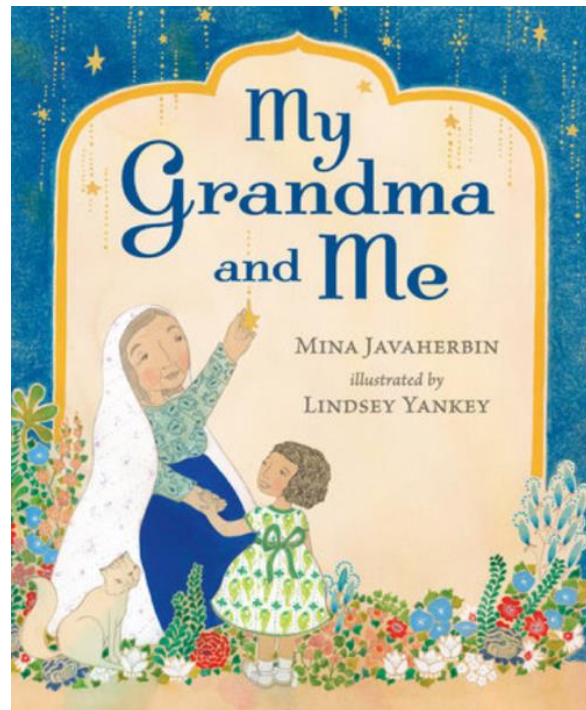
Review of *My Grandma and Me*

Written by Mina Javaherbin & Illustrated by Lindsey Yankey

Adult/Educator Reviewer: Xinyi Meng

The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Student Reviewers: Daisy Jiang & Shirly Jiang, 5th Grade



Javaherbin, M., & Yankey, L. (Illustrator). (2019). *My grandma and me*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

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Adult Review: Xinyi Meng

My Grandma and Me is an intimate narration from the point of view of a young girl reminiscing her experience growing up with her grandma in Iran. The child followed grandma everywhere, enjoying doing everything grandma did—cooking, praying, making chadors, etc. Love emanates from the time shared between grandma and the young girl and the colorful social tapestry woven with the baker boy, with neighbors Annette and her grandmother, with the poor man sleeping on the streets... Grandma's endless love for her granddaughter, friends, and God transcends space and time, continuing to shine bright throughout the pages.

Intergenerational love is the most forgiving and heartwarming, and this story is no exception. What makes the text even more appealing is the presence of Iranian culture from which the story originates. In the world of unrest and animosity, stories like *My Grandma and Me* conquers conflicts and bridges understanding. It's a perfect testimony to the kind of love that educates, nurtures, and transcends. The elaborate illustrations of the book resemble delicate embroideries celebrating the fine Iranian artistry, which is another galvanizing quality of the book.

This book has rich religious implications manifested through the ritual prayer *namaz*, the settings of both a

church and mosque, and the intercommunication between Christianity and Muslim. Educators need to consider possible discussions inspired by the religious beliefs and practices discussed in the book while acknowledging the central message of establishing conversations and loving relationships across boundaries and differences.

Student Review: Daisy Jiang & Shirly Jiang

We love this story and would recommend it to our friends, because it teaches us how to love others. We see many examples of love in the book: love between grandma and granddaughter, love for friends, the poor man sleeping on the sidewalk, the cat, the gods. We think people who have love in their hearts and those who like to smile would enjoy this book.

We like everything in the book. Our favorites are the picture with everyone smiling in the mosque and the one with the grandma and granddaughter sitting on the moon accompanied by stars. We wonder where the other relatives of the little girl are.

This book reminds us of our grandparents. They're very kind to us and never get angry. We hope every child can have loving grandparents.