How to Babysit A Grandma

by JEAN REAGAN
illustrated by LEE WILDISH
For my sister, Jane,
grandma extraordinaire, and for
Allison and Jamie and their teams
—J.R.
What should you do when you get to her door?

Put on a disguise and say, “GUESS WHOOOOOO?”

Knock with a secret knock only she knows. Tap, tap. Tappity-tap.

If you like cats, meow. If you like dogs, bark. If you like goldfish, hmmmm...

When she opens the door, shout: “Grandma, your babysitter is here!”
Hug your mom and dad goodbye and say, “Don’t be sad. I’ll be home soon.”

Now tell your grandma all the fun things you have planned.

HOW TO KEEP A GRANDMA BUSY:

GO TO THE PARK
bake snickerdoodles
have a costume parade
GO TO THE PARK to feed the ducks
do yoga
look at family pictures
GO TO THE PARK to swing
play hide-and-seek
make goofy hats
GO TO THE PARK to slide
have a dancing-puppet show
read stacks of books
GO TO THE PARK to take photos
do pushups
play cards

As the babysitter, you need to let her choose.
Of course, she’ll want to . . .
...go to the park.

WHAT TO DO AT THE PARK:

Slide down the bumpy slide and the twirly slide. If she's feeling brave, try the tallest slide of all.

Push your grandma on the swing, but not too high. Remind her to pump her legs.

Feed the ducks. Show her how to help the shy ones get some food.

Don't forget: good babysitters always say, “Five more minutes!” before it's ... “Time to go!”
Back at home, plan some more fun.

**HOW TO PLAY WITH A GRANDMA:**

Grab two microphones and sing a duet. (You might want to try “You Are My Sunshine” or “Happy Birthday.”)
Or make up a new song together.

Line up all her shoes to play Shoe Shop.

If your grandma likes fancy things, decorate her with ribbons, bows, and stickers. Shout “Ta-dah!” when you hand her a mirror.
Soon it’s time for dinner. Your grandma may be a yummy cook, but share your tricks to make everything taste even yummier.

Add sprinkles to anything. (Well—almost anything.)

Arrange the food to make silly faces.

Shut your eyes as you take each bite and say, “Mmmmm...”
When it starts to get dark, take your grandma outside to find the first star.
Back inside, snuggle up and . . .

Read some books. Turn the pages slowly so she can find everything in the pictures.

Ask your grandma for stories about when your mom was little:

“What was Mom’s favorite thing to do at the park?”
“Did she ever get in trouble?”
“Was her grandma as fun as you?”

Teach her how to say I-LOVE-YOU without making a sound.
(Point to your eye, to your heart, and to her)
Now let your grandma choose where she wants to sleep.

**PLACES TO SLEEP:**

- In a tent
- On the couch
- In the little bed
- In the big bed
- On the floor

If she asks, “Should we leave the night-light on? The hall light on? The door open?” answer, “Yep, yep, yep.”
Once you’re both tucked in, make shadow puppets. Have your shadow foxes kiss good night.

If she’s missing your mom and dad, tell her, “They’ll be here tomorrow, bright and early.”
In the morning, when you hear a knock, open the door dressed up as...
After you’re all packed up comes the hardest part: goodbye time.

HOW TO SAY GOODBYE TO A GRANDMA:
Let her borrow some sprinkles, some books, some stickers, some ribbons...
Say I-LOVE-YOU without making a sound.
Give her a BIG hug and ask, “When can I babysit you again?”
How to Babysit a Grandma

stay @ grandma, sleepover

- pack a bag
- too much fun but say goodbye mid-sleep
- aluminum boats
dog? cat / iguana or bunny? I don't know

Make How-to list:
- pack one for her - she may not
- read from Mom, has one
- read books
- don't let her spoil you too
- eggs and pie, other
- don't let grandma go too wild
- at door - deep deep voice, count away
- tap, tap, tap, sing

Write - give choices
Don’t forget presents!

PRESENTS FOR A DAD:

Shirt and tie.
(Instead of wrapping these, wear them for an even bigger surprise.)
How to Babysit a Grandma

- Stay @ grandma
- Sleepover
- Pack a bag
- Too much fun, don't say goodbye
- Aluminum boats
- Dog? Cat? Iguana or bunny? I don't know.

Make a How-to list, pick one for her - something.
Read from mom's book.
Hand her book.
Don't let rain spoil your fun.
Sprinklers, water and pies better
Don't let your go too wild.

At door:
Deep deep voice
Scream away.

Tap, tap, tap.
Sing.

Write: give chances.
HOW TO BABYSIT A GRANDMA
By Jean Reagan

When you babysit a grandma—if you’re lucky—it’s a sleepover at her house.

What should you do when you get to her door?

In deep, deep voice say “GUESS WHOOOOOO?”

Knock with a secret knock only she knows. Knock, knock. Tappity-tap. Tappity, tappity. TAP—TAP—TAP!

If you like cats, meow. If you like dogs, bark. IF YOU LIKE TURTLES, (GOLDFISH) SNAP?

When she opens the door, shout: "Your babysitter is here!!"
HOW TO BABYSIT A GRANDMA

By Jean Reagan

When you babysit a grandma—if you're lucky—it's a sleepover at her house.

What should you do when you get to her door?

- Wear a disguise and say "GUESS WHOOOOOO?"
- Knock with a secret knock only she knows. Knock, knock. Tappy-tap. Tappy-tap. TAP—TAP—TAP!
- Meow if you like cats. Bark if you like dogs. And say funny stuff. "Your babysitter is here."
Have a hop-skipe-and-a-jump race.

Check flowers for ladybugs and butterflies. (Watch out for bees.)

---

At the park

Push your grandma on the swing, but not too high. If she's feeling brave, have her shut her eyes.

Feed the ducks. Show her how to help the shy ones get some food.

Slide down the bunny slide, the twirly slide, and then try the very highest slide of all. She may say, "Again! Again!" (strange eyes?)

Don't forget, good babysitters always say, "Five more minutes!" before saying, "Time to go!"

---

Back at home, head straight to the kitchen. Your grandma may be a yummy cook, but teach her tricks to make everything taste even yummier:

- Add sprinkles to anything. (Well—almost anything.)
- Use fancy cups. Hold out your plinky.
- Decorate the table with art, flowers, pinecones, candles, placemats, and extra silverware.

---

Now say, "Let's play!"

- Line up all her shoes and play "Shoe Shop." (Illustrator note: a wide variety of shoes, such as hiking boots, flip-flops, bunny slippers, snowshoes, ski, etc.)
- Grab two microphones and your favorite songs. (More is "Happy Birthday." Or what?"
- If your grandma likes fancy, fix her hair in ribbons. Decorate her fingernails with stickers and choose matching sticker-earings. Say, "Tada!" when you hand her a mirror.
- Or if she's a fuzzy grandma:

When it starts to get dark, surprise your grandma with glow-in-the-dark band-aids. Turn off the light and turn on your flashlight to make sure they work.

- Is this black? Are you scared? Not sure if it makes sense to turn on the flashlight just to see grandma in the dark band-aids. Maybe and keep your flashlight handy.
Amelia's Guide to Babysitting
by Marissa Moss

I'm a baby expert now!

(except all diapers changed — yuck! — by Amelia!)
SNACKS FOR A GRANDPARENT

Ice cream topped with cookies
Olives served on fingertips
Anything dipped in ketchup
Cookies topped with ice cream
SNACKS FOR A GRANDPA
What should you do when you get to her door?

Put on a disguise and say, "GUESS WHOOOOOO?"

Knock with a secret knock only she knows. Knock, knock. Tappity-tap. Tappity, tappity. Tap! Tap! Tap!

If you like cats, meow. If you like dogs, bark. If you like goldfish, hmmm...
When she opens the door, shout: "Grandma,
I'm all right now!"
Push your grandma on the swing, but not too high. Remind her to pump her legs.

Feed the ducks. Show her how to help the shy ones get some food.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s), Illustrator(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oh, the Places You'll Go!</td>
<td>Dr. Seuss</td>
<td>Random House</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Goodnight Moon</td>
<td>Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (Illus.), Harper</td>
<td>$8.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Where the Wild Things Are</td>
<td>Maurice Sendak, Harper</td>
<td>$17.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Duckling Gets a Cookie!</td>
<td>Mo Willems, Hyperion</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ladybug Girl and Bingo</td>
<td>Jacky Davis, David Soman (Illus.), Dial</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</td>
<td>Eric Carle, Putnam</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>I Want My Hat Back</td>
<td>Jon Klassen, Candlewick</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site</td>
<td>Sherri Duskey Rinker, Tom Lichtenheld (Illus.), Chronicle</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pat the Bunny</td>
<td>Dorothy Kunhardt, Golden</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons</td>
<td>Eric Litwin, James Dean (Illus.), Harper</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Make Way for Ducklings</td>
<td>Robert McCloskey, Puffin</td>
<td>$7.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>How to Babysit a Grandpa</td>
<td>Jean Reagan, Lee Wildish (Illus.), Knopf</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Press Here</td>
<td>Herve Tullet, Chronicle</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Brown Bear; Brown Bear; What Do You See?</td>
<td>Bill Martin, Eric Carle (Illus.), Holt</td>
<td>$7.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The Lorax</td>
<td>Dr. Seuss, Random House</td>
<td>$14.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Age Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>GOODNIGHT, GOODNIGHT, CONSTRUCTION SITE</td>
<td>Sherri Duskey Rinker and Tom Lichtenheld, (Chronicle)</td>
<td>Trucks at sunset</td>
<td>Ages 4 to 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>STEAM TRAIN, DREAM TRAIN</td>
<td>Sherri Duskey Rinker and Tim Lichtenheld, (Chronicle)</td>
<td>(Animal) workers load freight</td>
<td>Ages 3 to 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A BIG GUY TOOK MY BALL!</td>
<td>Mo Willems, (Disney-Hyperion)</td>
<td>Someone stole Piggie’s ball</td>
<td>Ages 4 to 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>POEMS TO LEARN BY HEART</td>
<td>Caroline Kennedy, Illustrated by Jon J Muth, (Disney-Hyperion)</td>
<td>A collection covering the range of human experience and imaginations</td>
<td>All ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>THIS IS NOT MY HAT</td>
<td>Jon Klassen, (Cardwell)</td>
<td>A fish will probably get away with a stolen item. Probably.</td>
<td>Ages 4 to 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>PRESS HERE</td>
<td>Horváth Titl, (Handprint/Chronicle)</td>
<td>A whimsical dance of color and motion, at the touch of a finger.</td>
<td>Ages 4 to 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PETE THE CAT; I LOVE MY WHITE SHOES</td>
<td>Eric Litwin, Illustrated by James Dean, (Harper/HarperCollins)</td>
<td>(Well-shod Pete)</td>
<td>Ages 4 to 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>HOW TO BABYSIT A GRANDPA</td>
<td>Jean Reagan, Illustrated by Lee Wildish, (Knopf)</td>
<td>(Kroepf) Taking care of your charge; snack steals included.</td>
<td>Ages 4 to 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>THE DARK</td>
<td>Lenore Skomal, Illustrated by Jon Klassen, (Little, Brown)</td>
<td>Lucinda overcomes his fear.</td>
<td>Ages 3 to 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>BECAUSE I'M YOUR DAD</td>
<td>Abraham Zappa, Illustrated by Dan Santat, (Disney-Hyperion)</td>
<td>A monster and his son play, burp and cut spaghetti for breakfast.</td>
<td>Ages 3 to 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Surprise a DAD

From the creators of the New York Times bestseller HOW TO BABYSIT A GRANDPA

BY JEAN REAGAN ILLUSTRATED BY LEE WILDISH
Errands are fun, until... you end up in a loooooooong line.

If your mom starts to get a little cranky...

Surprise her with a snack and toy.

If that doesn't work...
act out a goofy story.

If that still doesn't work, try saying, in a very cheerful voice, "Thank you so much, Sweet Pea, for being so patient."
How to Get Your Teacher Ready

by Jean Reagan
illustrated by Lee Wildish

Creators of the New York Times bestseller How to Babysit a Grandpa
For teachers everywhere. You are truly amazing.

-J.R.

You’re ready for the first day of school.
But what about your teacher?

Malcolm first grade