



My Grandma and Me

Roman DeSilva

Leon/Wakulla REA

District 2

I look forward to summer. No... not just because we don't go to school. I look forward to the summer because that's when I get to hang out with the best person in the whole world. My Grandma!

My Grandma is amazing. She is retired now, but she used to work as a nurse. Not bragging or anything but she really knows what to do when me or any of my brothers get sick. My Grandma also knows her medicines but 2 summers ago I found her weakness, my Grandma gets lost...lot.

It all started on a sunny summer day. My Grandma woke me up. And made me a breakfast of pancakes and bacon. I love bacon! Grandma exclaimed proudly that she was taking me on a field trip to a place called Lake Jackson Mounds State Park. I was really excited, not knowing how bad our day would be.

We arrived at the park around 10:00 am. It was a very hot day, but we were not going to be at the park for a long time, so it was fine with me. Grandma and I decided to walk the trail. The park had an ancient Native American mound that we really wanted to see!

We walked around the trail until we saw the mound. Along the park were all these different plants and trees that Grandma had been identifying. We got off the trail for what seemed like 1 minute to look at a plant. I don't remember what plant it was, but I wish I never got off the path to go see it. After we examined the plant, I turned to look at my Grandma. That's when she said, "We are lost." Me and my Grandma held hands as we tried to find our way back to the opening of the park. I told Grandma that this was the only time that she could talk to these plants and I hoped that they talked back to tell us which way to go. Beads of sweat started to roll down Grandma's face as she said, "If your momma knew that we were lost, she would never let you spend time with me again." She was right!

We were walking for what seemed like an eternity until we saw a nice old man on a bike. Before I knew it I told him that we were lost, and could he help us. The man smiled and said, "We were in luck". He rides the bike trail all the time and he would be happy to help us. He led us back to the opening of the park.

On the way home Grandma and I stopped at Circle K and we got Polar Pops. In between gulps she looked me in the eye and made me promise to never tell my mom. That was the day that I learned my Grandma was horrible with directions, but she was the best at keeping secrets!

We never went to that park again.



My Grandfather

Emmaleah Pittman

Suwannee/Lafayette REA

District 3

Have you ever wished to see a family member before they die? I was worried that I would not be able to bond with my grandfather James Pittman before he died but I was able to comfort him in his last moments.

2/18/24 I went to the hospital to visit my grandfather who was diagnosed with stage four cancer. Me and my grandfather weren't close but got along and loved each other so I had to visit him for Comfort. When I walked into his hospital room I almost started crying immediately when I

I saw the state he was in, but after a bit he called me over to talk to me. He told me to stay strong, hold my head up and don't let people hold you down. My father could see that I was getting emotional, so we went out and we came back due to hospice coming in. They told us they would move him from the hospital to hospice at five, so we left the room and headed to hospice. They got there before us and were setting him up. After they were done we went in and spent time with him until we had to leave.

2/19/24 we woke up, got ready and headed to hospice. We got there and walked in. He wasn't strong enough to keep his eyes open but he still was responsive. We spent an hour with my grandfather before the rest of my family arrived. Me and my cousins talked and waited to make sure he was ok. After a bit my father said he would go get pizza with Mrs. Becky. About twenty minutes after they left my grandfather sadly passed. As soon as my father heard, he rushed over to comfort everyone.

After that day I regret not spending enough time with him, so next time you can spend time with your family, you should.

Nana Time

Elayna Clark

Nassau County CREA

District 5



Giggle, giggle, laugh, that's the sound of me and my Nana having fun together! I love spending time with my Nana because of her age and our relationship and all the memories we have together. I love my Nana with all my heart.

I love my Nana because of her age. Why is her age important to me? Because she is getting old, and I want to spend a lot of time with her. For example, I love to bake cookies and go to the zoo with her. Unfortunately, my Nana has Parkinsons. Parkinsons is a disease that causes my Nana to shake, forget things, use a wheelchair, and even fall. I call it her "sickness." Parkinsons is a bad sickness that makes her think differently too. An example is when we are playing cards, she forgets how to play which is sad because I know she wants to play. It's hard to watch, but I know she is fighting.

I have a very strong relationship with my Nana. We make a lot of bonds when I travel to see her. I go to Michigan twice a year to see her and my family. When we are together, I always want to play board games and card games. We have a lot of fun together! We love to go out to eat and we like to get ice cream. I try to catch up and talk with her when we are together.

I love our relationship! I have a lot of memories with my Nana. When I was little, she used to play with me a lot. Now, because of her sickness we don't play the same way. For example, I will never forget when we were in my parent's room getting ready for bed, I said, "ana let's play wheelbarrow!" She picked up my legs and wheelbarrowed me around the room! Together we laughed as we went around the room.

We make a lot of memories by eating ice cream and playing games together. Another way we make memories is by watching her favorite vet show. I want her to have company and always know that I am there for her. I love my Nana with all my heart, we have a lot of memories.

In conclusion her age, our relationship, and making memories are why I enjoy spending time with her. I think my Nana is the BEST Nana in the world! We will continue to giggle, laugh, and have fun together, I love my Nana with my all my heart!



My Grandparent

Austyn Alford

Hernando CREA

District 6

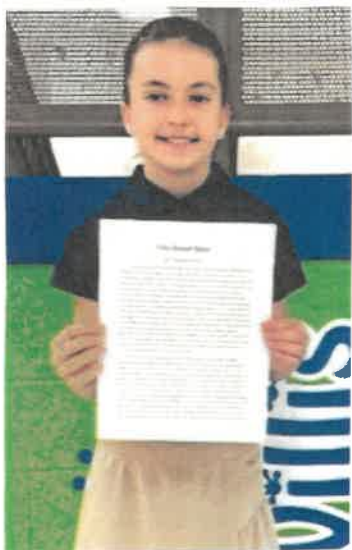
The love shown by family is great, and some people get to experience that type of relationship with a grandparent. My grandmother loves me. She has had hard times and easy times. The memories we have shared and the times we have had together help to show the love we experience.

My grandmother likes me to call her nanny, and she calls me her Florida Boy. She is 73 years old. She came to live with me after she got into a car accident. She was put in the hospital for a couple of weeks. She was on her way home from church when she had a medical episode while driving, which caused her to swerve into oncoming traffic. Afterwards, she came to live with us. My parents put up a wall so she can have her own space. They also got her a fridge and a microwave so she can continue to be independent.

Before my nanny came to live with us, there was a park near her home that she took me to. We got to play on the swings and slides. She enjoys being outside in the sun. She likes gardening and watching and feeding the birds. Walking on the beach and looking for shells is one of her favorite things to do.

One of the best experiences my nanny and I have had together was when we went on a cruise. Last year, we took her on a Carnival cruise ship with us. One night, we had a fancy dinner at a restaurant that had a model ship display in front. Most meals we had for dinner, lunch and breakfast were buffets. She watched me play mini golf. She also came and swam with us in the pool. One of the stops was Grand Turk. We swam at the beach at one of the stops, and my nanny found a smooth shell while walking on the beach. We went to the auditorium to watch my sister sing with all of the Camp Ocean kids. We went back to the cabin to rest in between all the fun activities.

Most days, my nanny comes over, and when I get home from school, she is doing laundry. Sometimes, I stay downstairs with her and watch YouTube and occasionally a movie. From time to time, she watches it too. My favorite movie is The Polar Express. My favorite youtubers are Slogo and Jelly; She watches me play Poly Bridge on my pc, which is a game where you build bridges to get a car across a gap. She shows interest into my shows and movies because she has interest in me.



The Great Shot

By: **Katelyn McIntyre**

Manatee CREA

District 7

Amazing. Cool. Outstanding. These are three words that describe my experience with my grandpa at the LPGA Drive On Championship. The Bradenton Country Club was bustling with excitement as the golf tournament was opening. Me, my dad, and my grandpa were here to see the one and only Nelly Korda, who was a great professional golfer and had won tons of tournaments in the past. I had seen her in a tournament before and was excited to see her again. We waited on one of the holes to see her because the "Nellians" were watching her and were going crazy over her, so we had to get a spot before anyone else came over. I stood behind the ropes, eager to see Nelly for the first time in this tournament. Me and my grandpa watched as she hit the ball and landed it in the fairway. We followed her hole after hole, shot after shot. Nelly was still in the lead. She's unstoppable, like my grandpa. No matter how hard the challenges are, he still makes time for his family, including me. We walked for more holes, but then my grandpa had to leave. I was thankful for his generosity for the ticket and was excited to continue to see Nelly throughout this day.

Me and my dad stayed to watch Nelly play holes fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen. I got to see her as she walked off the eighteenth green, pride fueled in her body. Me and my dad then walked over to the practice green, which had a fence around it. Nelly walked over to the practice green and under a tent to get interviewed. If you were a professional golfer, people would ask you questions about your feelings out on the course and how you think you did that day. I did not hear what Nelly was saying, but I knew that it must have been great because she finished in first place that day. Still unstoppable like my grandfather. He hurt his knee last summer and still plays golf. He got back up again even when things were hard, just like Nelly Korda. After her interview, Nelly made her way over to the side of the fence to say hi to her parents. Then, she went over to my side of the fence and signed personal items of her fans. That was when I got my hat signed by her. It was an important memory of the tournament for me. I didn't need a souvenir - I had a hat signed by Nelly Korda. After I got my hat signed, my father and I walked over to the parking lot to leave the tournament. That was when it got better. I spotted Nelly in the parking lot. I asked her for a picture of me and her, and to my surprise, she said yes! But all of this wouldn't have been possible without my grandpa. This wouldn't have been a memorable moment for me without him.

MY GRANDMA IS ALWAYS THERE!

Angel Ray

North Brevard CREA

District 8



Have you ever done something fun with your grandma or grandpa? Have your grandparents ever done something special with you? Do you ever make crafts with your grandma or grandpa? Grandparents are always there to help you. They also make you feel confident about something you're unsure about. For me, my grandma always tries to help me with an assignment or my homework. She always wants me to get a's and b's and she always comes to my concerts and my award ceremonies.

Sometimes my grandma and I like to do crafts, shopping, and go to the park together. My favorite part of hanging out with my grandma is when we watch movies together on a cloudy day because it's relaxing.

Sometimes we will watch the most hilarious movies and shows with actors such as Jeff Dunningham, Adam Sandler, and Eddie Murphy. We have watched all the Harry Potter Movies. For my birthday, I got Harry Potter glasses, a wand, a Harry Potter plushy and even a Harry Potter sweater. Sometimes on the weekends or long breaks we will make holiday crafts, such as gingerbread man. At the moment, we are making stars for my bedroom ceiling.

We made them by cutting out cardboard shaped stars, getting tissue paper, turning them into balls, putting glue on them and then sticking them on the stars shapes. Sometimes we make a card with it, sign it with the date and then we will give it to one of our family members or our friends for the holiday. If there is no holiday coming up, we will bake. We make a lot of things such as cupcakes, cakes, cookies, and mini donuts. My grandma always has something for us to do. We will make surprises for my sisters or my mom. It's like keeping a secret except it is not an actual secret. I remember this one time, when I was 8 or 9 years old, I told my mom something I was not supposed to tell her. My grandma said "it was a test". From that day on, when my grandma tells me a secret I never tell anyone!

Another experience I had with my grandma is one night, I was watching a movie, and the television went out. I told my grandma, and she said it happened to everyone's television. Instead of watching television, we colored and ate popcorn with m&m's until it was time for me to go to bed. One time we made a beach drawing with a turtle and palm trees, using colored pencils.

Sometimes we will make bracelets. When I was 7 or 8 years old, we would go to the park every weekend. I'd ride my bicycle and play on the playground. Sometimes we walk my dog, Cookie, around. She will see these birds that are tall with white feathers and orange beaks and bark at them. My grandma and I are always doing yard work, too. We plant different plants like tomatoes and strawberries. My grandma has this pile full of leaves, pine needles, and palm fronds. We also put all the other things we raked up like weeds and dead plants and put them in the pile. There was this on pile that looked wet and a dark green color. My grandma said "It's called compost. It happens when dead plants gather together and make the soil richer." My grandma also likes to read a lot. She reads magazines, my school books and the books we get from the public library.

In conclusion, my grandma gives me a lot of love and kindness. We always do great things together and our experiences we have had are truly amazing. My grandma is not my actual grandma, but she is to me and she is the closest thing I have to a grandma. I'm really blessed to have her!



My Wonderful Grandparents

Kayson Jeanbaptiste

St. Lucie County

District 9 Winner

I love my grandparents. Somethings that I love about my grandparents are visiting my grandpa, my grandmas' cooking, and my grandparents watching out for me. I always look forward to spending time with my grandparents.

To begin with, visiting my grandpa is something I enjoy doing. One time my grandpa took me and my family to a buffet as a gesture of kindness. I really appreciate it because he did not have to take me and my family to a buffet, but he did it anyway and I find that quite admirable. My grandpa still takes me and my family to buffets because of his love for his family. Another reason I enjoy visiting my grandpa is because I loved to see my uncle Jimmy and I still do. My grandpa has a one-year-old child named jimmy, and I adore him. He is extremely energetic and walks everywhere, but a few months ago he could not walk and was as small and red as a tomato. I like to see Jimmy because he is adorable and fun to be around. Visiting my grandpa's house is always a pleasant experience.

In addition, I really enjoy my grandmas' cooking. Both of my grandmas can cook many things but one of my favorites are dumplings ("boy" in creole) and pate (a Haitian patty). I recall a moment when my late grandma from my dad's side made me some dumplings and some pates, the dumplings were delicious, and it felt as if I had ascended to heaven. The dumplings weren't filled with anything because they got their taste from whatever it was cooked with which happened to be black bean sauce. The pates she made, which is any type of meat encased in a crunchy bread, were also exquisite. I wish she could make more. Another food my grandma made is rice and red beans. I do not like red beans but when my grandmas' pair it with rice it is immaculate. Rice and red beans are foods I could eat every day because of how healthy and delicious it is. Cooking can be both exciting and delicious.

Finally, my grandparents watch out for me. My grandparents have babysat me since I was born. They are the best babysitters ever. I remember when my late grandma from my dad's side was taking care of me, I would always want bread and she always had some just in case I came. All my grandparents always make sure I leave their house well fed. My grandparents did not just babysit me they also gave me medicine for every ailment. One time I had a horrendous stomachache, but my late grandma made a remedy, and my stomachache was gone. Another time I was constipated so my grandma made gas tea. Both remedies were disgusting but effective.

In conclusion, the things I love about my grandparents are visiting my grandpa, my grandmas' delicious recipes, and my grandparents watch out for me. Time spent with grandparents is priceless!