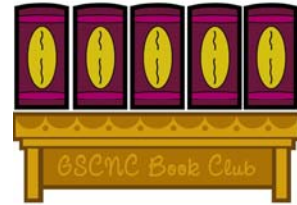


Through Grandpa's Eyes

By Patricia MacLachlan

Best for Brownies



Book Summary – On John's visits to Grandpa's house, his blind grandfather shares with him the special way he sees the world.

Meeting 1: Setting up your Book Club

This meeting guide provides a basic outline for hosting three or four 60-minute Book Club meetings. Details for discussion questions, activities, and field trips can be found in the individual Book Club Meeting Guide for each book. You are welcome to incorporate as much or as little of this meeting guide into your meetings. This guide can also be used as the basis for a sampler troop. Consider asking a local book club to host the meetings! Please refer to the Setting up your Book Club Guide” for more information.

Meeting 2

Discussion Questions (First half of book)

To refresh girls' memories you can read the book out loud with them at the start of the meeting.

Discover

John says that he likes his Grandpa's house the best. Why does John like Grandpa's house? What makes Grandpa's house special? What is your favorite place? (Have the girls go around in a circle to answer.) Why is it your favorite place? Is it ok that everyone has different places that are their favorites? What would happen if everyone had the same favorite place?

Connect

John's Grandpa is blind. What does it mean if someone is blind? What is a disability? What are some other types of disabilities? John is not blind, but he says that he likes to "see through Grandpa's eyes." What does this mean? How can John "see" like Grandpa? How does Grandpa know what Nana made for breakfast? What senses does Grandpa use to "see" the world?

Take Action

Do you think that it is easy or hard to be blind? Can someone who is blind do everything the same way as a person who can see? Grandpa uses a "trick" at breakfast so he knows what he is eating. What is the "trick" that Grandpa uses? Why does he do this? What are some other "tricks" you can think of that blind person might use (walking down the street, shopping, cooking dinner, etc)? What are some ways you can to help someone who is blind (at home, at a store, at a park, etc)?

Activity: Make a clay animal

Supplies:

- 1 cup flour

- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil
- 1/2 tsp. cream of tartar
- Food coloring (optional)
- Wax paper
- Blindfold

Before the meeting:

Mix all ingredients together in a saucepan and cook over medium heat until the mixture holds together (keep mixing or it will stick to the bottom of the pan). When the clay is cool enough to touch, girls can knead it on wax paper. Stored in an airtight container, this dough will last, refrigerated or unrefrigerated, for 2 to 4 weeks.

At the meeting:

Nana made a clay sculpture of Grandpa's head. Even though he could not see it, he knew that it looked just like him. How was he able to tell?

Divide the clay between the girls. Have each girl make an animal with the clay. When the girls are done making their animal have them sit in a circle. Put the animals in the middle of the circle. Place a blindfold over one girl's eyes. Pick a random animal to place in her hands. Have the girl try to guess what animal it is. Remind the girls not to press too hard on the clay or its shape might change. Repeat by going around the circle and giving each girl a new animal.

Is it easy to guess what animal is it without being able to see? What are some clues you used to figure out what type of animal it is?

Closing

Ask girls to consider choices for their final activity (see Meeting 4 suggestions). Remind girls to read the second half of the book for the next meeting.

Meeting 3

Discussion Questions (Second half of book)

To refresh girls' memories you can read the book out loud with them at the start of the meeting.

Discover

John and Grandpa enjoy a nice walk outside. What do John and Grandpa do on their walk? Grandpa knows the names of all the birds. How does Grandpa know what the birds are without being able to see them? Grandpa must have very good ears. Can John learn to have good ears like Grandpa? Would it be easy or hard to have such good ears? Why?

Connect

Grandpa, Nana, and John take their books to read outside after lunch. How can Grandpa read if he cannot see? Do you think that John and Grandpa can read the same stories?

Grandpa has a special type of book. Instead of seeing letters, Grandpa reads little raised dots on a page with his fingers. Each group of dots is a letter or a word. This is called Braille. What animal is listening to Grandpa as he reads out loud? How come Grandpa does not know about the squirrel? What else does Grandpa not know about because he cannot see (paint color, light being on or off, etc)?

Take Action

Grandpa has something that makes him different than John. What does being different mean? What are some ways people can be different from one another? (abilities, body, interests, age, family, etc) Is it ok to be different from your friends? Why? What if you have a friend who does not like being different? What can you do to help her know that it is ok to be different?

Activity: The Most Beautiful Orange

Supplies:

- Oranges (one for each girl and one extra)
- Markers, stickers, ribbons, etc
- Towel or cloth
- Bowl
- Plate

Tell the girls you will be having a contest to choose the most beautiful orange. When the oranges are decorated, place them in a bowl and send them to the judges in a different room. Have one orange already peeled. Place the peeled orange on a plate and cover with a towel or cloth. Bring the covered peeled orange to the girls and announce: “We have chosen the most beautiful orange!” Uncover the winning orange in front of the girls. Explain that what matters is not on the outside, that inside we are all the same, and we are all equally beautiful.

Closing

Have the girls each list one thing they are proud about that makes them different from everyone else and why.

Meeting 4

Meeting 4: Extension activities (can be virtual or actual)

These are just suggestions; please feel free to brainstorm with your troop to come up with other ideas as well.

- Special Olympics
 1. Linthicum, MD (<http://www.somd.org/>)
 2. Washington, DC (<http://www.specialolympicsdc.org>)
 3. Richmond, VA (www.specialolympicsva.org/)

Learn about the Special Olympics. What are they and who are they for? Attend an event or volunteer to help at an event.

- National Museum of American History, Washington DC (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/>): Visit the Helen Keller display (currently located

- at the National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC while NMAH is undergoing renovations). Who is Helen Keller? Why is she famous?
- *Hand in Hand* Deaf Access Company, Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD (<http://www.imaginationstage.org/home.htm>): See a performance by *Hand in Hand*, a theater company made up of hearing and non-hearing children.
 - National Zoo, Washington, DC (<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/>): Is one animal better than another animal just because it is different from one another? Can all animals see? Can all animals hear? Can all animals smell?
 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington, DC (<http://www.nps.gov/fdrm/>): President Roosevelt was not able to walk, but that did not stop him from becoming president of the United States of America. Explore the memorial and learn about what President Roosevelt accomplished.

Additional Activities

Activities

- Including ALL Girls Patch Program (NEW!)
- Zink the Zebra Kit
- Learn about Juliette Lowe, the founder of Girl Scouts, who was deaf. (http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/history/low_biography/)

Other Resources

- VSA Arts *Express Diversity!* (<http://www.vsarts.org/x594.xml>)
- VSA Arts *Disability Awareness Guide* (<http://www.vsarts.org/x523.xml>)