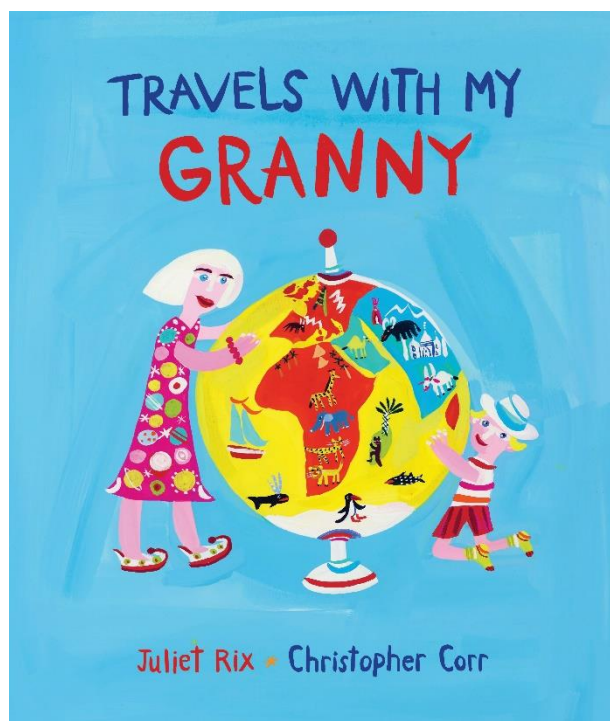


TEACHING IDEAS

TRAVELS with my GRANNY

By Juliet Rix, Illustrated by Christopher Corr



Granny was a great traveller. She's been all over the world, and her room is full of souvenirs. Now her legs won't carry her much further than the door, but she still 'travels', and sometimes she takes her grandchild with her. They've been to India and Italy, London and New York; they've snorkelled the Great Barrier Reef and hiked the Himalayas. The grown-ups think Granny is confused and doesn't know where she is, but Grandchild sees it differently: Granny "knows exactly where she is – it just isn't where the grown-ups are!". Granny and Grandchild's travelling isn't all plain sailing. Sometimes Grandchild loses track of Granny and has to wait until she returns. Then they set off again....

Guided by Granny's souvenirs and memories, this book takes kids to all sorts of colourful places across the world, to great cities and amazing landscapes. It also provides adults, with a simple, unscary, positive way to explain to children the sometimes unpredictable behaviour of people with dementia. Travels with my Granny opens the way to an age-appropriate discussion of this ever-more-common condition that leading experts say will in some way touch every child growing up today.

ENGLISH

1. Choose one of the places in the story and write what you would posts if you were visiting there. Try writing different length posts, for instance a tweet (maximum 280 characters), an Instagram or Facebook post, and a longer blog post.
2. Where in the world would you like to go? Choose one of the places Granny and Grandchild visit – or one they don't – and research the country you have chosen so you can write a short description of it and why you would particularly like to go there.
3. Where do you think Granny and Grandchild will go next? Write the next part of their travels.
4. All older people have lots of life behind them. Ask your grown-ups to help you chose an older relative or friend to ask about their memories and the most interesting things that have happened in their lives and write about it so their stories can be

- shared. You could write it as a story – a true story or you could write it as a Q&A, writing down your questions and then the most interesting parts of your interviewee's answers.
5. Write a story about somebody who isn't always in the same place as the rest of us. What are they thinking? What do they do? And how do the people around them react?
 6. Rewrite the story from Granny's point of view? Think carefully about how the events of the story would seem to Granny. What would she be thinking as they 'travel' to the various places? How would she see Grandchild? And what would she think about the younger grown-ups?
 7. Rewrite the story from the point of view of one of the grown-ups who are sitting on the sofa in Granny's room.
 8. Write a list of all the souvenirs in Granny's room and where they can be found in the rest of the story: which country does each one come from?
 9. Choose one (or more) of the souvenirs and do some research so you can write about it: what is it? how is it used? Is it typical of that country?
 10. Write a letter to the grown-ups in the story as if you were Grandchild and explain to the grown-ups how you think they should understand Granny.
 11. Find out some more about dementia and write a presentation (perhaps in a group) to explain to other children what dementia is and how you can help people living with dementia



GEOGRAPHY

1. Look at all the souvenirs in Granny's room. Now see if you can find them in the rest of the story. Which countries do they come from? Now find them on the world map at the back of the book.
2. Make a list of all the countries Granny visits and how many people live in each of them.
3. Find a map of the world in an Atlas that shows the seven continents. What are they all called? Assuming the penguins in the story are in Antarctica. How many continents does Granny visit?
4. Choose one of the places in the story and do some research to find out more about it. Write an encyclopaedia entry for that place including facts and figures like how big the place is and how many people (or which animals) live there.
5. Cricket is very popular in India. Where else is cricket popular? What do these countries have in common? What are the favourite sports in other countries?
6. What is so special about the Great Barrier Reef? Why would Granny and Grandchild want to snorkel there?
7. Learn more about the Himalayas. They are one of the world's most important mountain ranges. Find out which are the highest mountains in the Himalayas and which countries they are in.
8. The Eiffel Tower is a special landmark in the French capital, Paris. Can you find a famous landmark for each of the capitals of Europe?
9. Draw a map of the streets around your school or home and mark it with a few souvenir that might remind you of the places in it (your school? Your home? A favourite shop? A farm? A park?)



ART

1. Make a picture of where Granny and Grandchild go next. Remember to include a souvenir (maybe Granny has kept it hiding in her drawer!)
2. Choose one of the countries Granny has visited and find out about the art of that country or region. Can you make a picture or a model in that style?
3. Make a picture of what you might see snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef.
4. Imagine you are standing on top of one of the tallest of the Himalayan mountains (they are VERY tall!). What can you see? Draw or paint a picture of a mountain-top view.
5. Looking down on the city of Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower you are looking down on all the streets and buildings of Paris. Make a collage of a city seen from above.
6. Granny has a flowing green scarf covered in stars that Grandchild is wearing at the beginning of the book. Design the pattern for a scarf you would like to wear.
7. Granny has some masks on her wall. Make yourself a mask. It might be an animal, an imaginary creature, or a human face that is different from yours...Remember to put some holes for the eyes so you can see where you are going.
8. Granny has souvenirs from the places she has visited. Choose somewhere you know. It could be a place you have been on holiday, somewhere you have visited near your home, or it could be your home or school itself. What might you keep as a souvenir of that place. Make a model of your souvenir.

MATHS

Counting

1. How many souvenirs from Granny's room can you spot in the story (or on the map at the end?)
2. How many pots is the man carrying on the tray on his head in Delhi?
3. How many cats are there in the picture of Rome?
4. How many red-uniformed guardsmen in their tall black 'busby' hats changing the guard at Buckingham Palace?
5. Are there more or fewer people on the London bus than there are guardsmen?
6. How many yellow New York taxis are there? And how many people in the taxis?
7. How many penguins can you see in icy Antarctica?
8. In the Africa picture, how many elephants are there? And how many zebras? So how many elephants and zebras are there altogether?
9. How many stars can you count on Granny's green scarf that Grandchild is wearing in Granny's room?

Arithmetic

10. How far is it from your home to Rome? To Jerusalem? To London? To New York? To Delhi?
11. How far is it to go to each of these places and then come home again?
12. If you went on a trip to each of these places (going there then coming home before setting off to the next place) how far would you have travelled in total?

13. What is you went to London and then kept going to Rome-Jerusalem-Delhi-New York and back to London. How far would you have travelled?
14. If you had relatives in Rome (or one of the other places) and went there three times in a year. How far would you have travelled?

MUSIC

1. Listen to some music from some of the countries Granny has visited. You might listen to 'classical' music or 'pop' music. How different is the music from, for example, India and Italy?
2. Granny's souvenir from Russia is a balalaika. This is a traditional Russian instrument. Is it like any instrument you know? How many strings does a balalaika have? Listen to some music played on a balalaika.
3. Ask an older person you know – a grandparent or an older friend or neighbour – what was their favourite music when they were a child. How different is it from the music you like?
4. Compose a piece of music that takes you travelling around the world.

PSHE

1. Do you know anyone a bit like Granny? It might not be a Granny, it might be a Grandpa, a Great-granny, a friend, a friend's relative, or a neighbour. What makes them like Granny?
2. Dementia affects 850,000 people in this country, millions around the world, most of them older people. It means their memories are not as good as they were and they sometimes are not completely in the here and now. Like Granny, they sometimes travel in their minds to other times and places. Do you know anyone with dementia?
3. How is Grandchild's way of being with Granny different from how the grown-ups see Granny?
4. Do you think Granny and Grandchild both enjoy their 'travels' / What does each of them like about 'travelling' together?
5. Make a list of ways you might be able to help someone with dementia.

More information, including teaching resources: www.alzheimers.org.uk

HISTORY

1. Most of the older people you know will not have dementia and their memories of times past and places they have been may be even better than Granny's in the story. Ask your grown-ups to help you choose a grandparent or an older friend to ask about the most interesting things that have happened in their lives. If they claim they have done nothing interesting, don't believe them! Everyone has interesting stories to tell. Try asking them about their childhood or their school days. How different were they from yours? Talking to people about the past is called oral history, that is history that is spoken rather than written down, but you can also record it or write it down for them.
2. If you can, record a little interview with your older person about their childhood or youth.

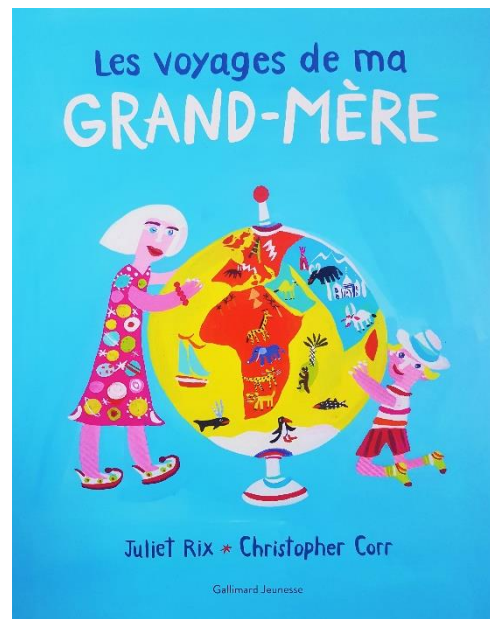
3. Write about what they tell you. You could do this as a (true) story. Or you could try writing it as if you were them telling the story, or you could write it as a Q&A (question and answer), writing down your questions and then the most interesting parts of their answers.

COMPUTING/MEDIA

1. Make a really colourful digital picture of a place you know
2. Add a link or links to some facts about the place
3. Create a digital reading of the book by videoing the pictures and the pages turning while one or more of you reads the text.

LANGUAGES

1. See if you can find out how to say 'Hello' in the language of each of the places Granny visits.
2. Travels with my Granny is also published in [French \(by Gallimard\)](#) as Les Voyages de ma Grand-Mère, so if you are learning French you could read the story in both languages.



HAPPY TRAVELS!