

# Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

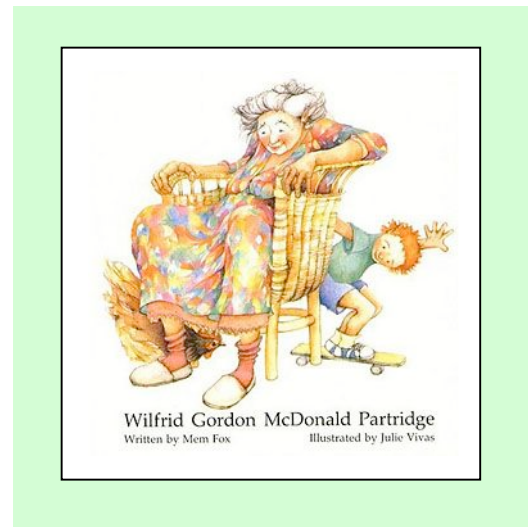
Written by Mem Fox  
Illustrated by Julie Vivas

Published: 1989      ISBN: 0-916291-04-9      Length: 32 pages

Genre: Narrative

Subjects: Writing, Reading

Educational Themes: Friendship, Imagination, Compassion



## SUMMARY

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge is about a young boy with a big heart. Living next door to a retirement home, he grows very fond of his neighbors. One woman in particular is Miss Nancy who is losing her memory. In a quest to understand what memory is and determined to help her get it back, Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge does just that. This heartfelt story is jam packed with love, compassion, and is written in a way that gives you a sense of accomplishment and completion.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

6-Traits

Writer's Craft

Habits of Mind

Hawaiian Value

General Learner Outcomes

## 6-TRAIT

**FLUENCY:** Natural rhythm and flow to the story.

**VOICE:** Written in 3<sup>rd</sup> person narration, the narrator creates a soothing, comforting, almost familiar feel to the story.

## WRITER'S CRAFT

**REPETITION:** Repetition and sentence patterns add to the fluency and voice of the story.

**QUOTATION MARKS:** Represents the conversations between characters outside of the narrator.

## HABITS OF MIND

**PERSISTING:** Wilfrid Gordon is not satisfied with one definition of memory; instead he continues to ask different community members about the word until he fully understands.

**THINKING AND COMMUNICATING WITH CLARITY AND PRECISION:** Both Wilfrid and Miss Nancy are effective communicators: he being able to speak to other community members and Miss Nancy sharing her memories through Wilfrids' gifts.

**GATHERING DATA THROUGH ALL SENSES:** Wilfrid is incredibly resourceful and uses his environment to help him gather a variety of trinkets to help Miss Nancy with her memory.

**LISTENING WITH UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY:** Through his attentive listening, Wilfrid is able to collect wonderful things to help Miss Nancy, as well as listen with empathy as she shares her stories.

Book Reviewer: S. David

Date Reviewed: July 1, 2009

**CREATING, IMAGING, AND INNOVATING:** It takes creativity to gather the items that Wilfrid collects for Miss Nancy and an imagination to fully grasp the great memories she has to share.

**RESPONDING WITH WONDERMENT AND AWE:** With each memory that Miss Nancy shares, Wilfrid's facial expressions show great admiration and respect.

### HAWAIIAN VALUE

**ALOHA (Compassion):** Throughout the book, through the interaction between the characters, one can feel a strong sense of love, affection, and admiration in the community.

**MĀLAMA (Care):** Through Wilfrid's interaction with the elders, it's prevalent that both elders and youth carry the need to protect, maintain, and care for one another.

**KULEANA (Privilege):** Wilfrid feels that it is his honor, privilege, and responsibility to help Miss Nancy with her memory loss.

### GENERAL LEARNER OUTCOMES

**SELF DIRECTED LEARNER:** Wilfrid takes it upon himself to fully understand the concept of what memory is by seeking out multiple resources.

**COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR:** Wilfrid does not see Miss Nancy's memory loss as an individual problem. With the help of the community, Wilfrid is not only able to help Miss Nancy's memory but strengthen their friendship as well.

**COMPLEX THINKER:** Wilfrid demonstrates his critical thinking skills by problem solving and finding a way to jog Miss Nancy's memory.

### THINGS TO TALK ABOUT AND NOTICE...

- Take a look at the book's illustrations. The pictures, colors, and body positions of the characters create such a warm, familiar, family like atmosphere.

### Sample Questions

- As you think about the elders and family members in this story, can you identify people in your family that you love spending time with and are close to your heart?
- As you reflect on the things that Wilfrid brought to Miss Nancy, can you recall some of those times? If you were sitting with Miss Nancy and Wilfrid with those items, which memories would you share using those items?
- As you think about Miss Nancy and her memory loss, what are some other ways Wilfrid could help get her memory back?

### Other Related Books

*The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant

*The Old Woman Who Named Things* by Cynthia Rylant

## POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES...

- Gather different items in the classroom and have students create collective or individual “I remember” poems based on the items in the classroom.
- Have students bring in a special item and help them share their story based on their memories. After students take their writing through the writing process, and possibly draw their special item: the teacher can create a gallery of the student’s writing and object. Then, students can either share their stories out loud or have students silently walk around the class and read the stories.