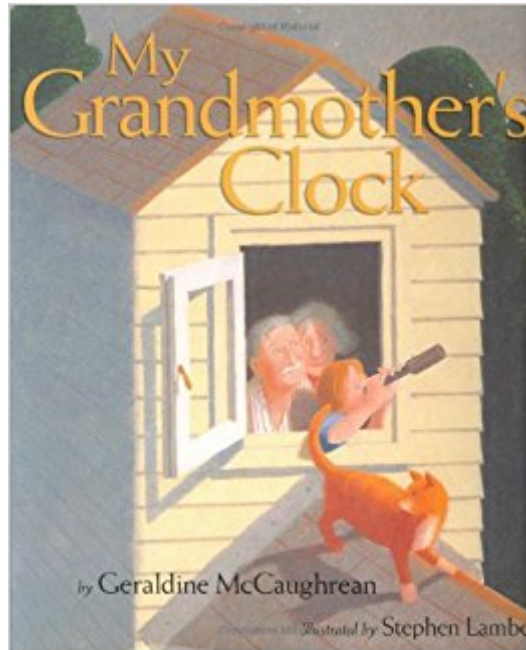




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My Grandmother's Clock



Synopsis

Grandmother has a clock, of course, but she doesn't use it to tell time. "I have so many other clocks," she says. A heartbeat, the blink of an eye, reading the newspaper, the length of shadows, the smell of baking, birdsong, birthdays, the moon. . . . Everything in and around us speaks eloquently of the passage of time. And so does this lyrical, moving text, warmed by dreamy illustrations that perfectly capture the affection between grandparents and grandchild. An inspired discussion starter and a beautiful gift book, *My Grandmother's Clock* is an exceptional collaboration of two remarkable talents.

Book Information

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Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

McCaughrean's (*A Little Lower Than the Angels*) meditation on time, serenely illuminated by Lambert (*Nobody Rides the Unicorn*), unfolds through the warm relationship between a girl narrator and her grandmother. A sandy-haired girl tells Grandma she ought to fix the grandfather clock in the hall; Grandma, at work in the kitchen, says, *Why... when I have so many other clocks telling me the time? When the girl, holding a cat in her arms as her grandmother mixes batter, asks, Where? The woman's leisurely response creates the effect of slowing down time: I can count the seconds by the beating of my heart. Have you ever noticed how the seconds go by much quicker when life is exciting?* Lambert's full-bleed pastel spreads, lit with the muted sunlight of the English coast, depict birds in flight and shadows extending from a magnolia tree in full bloom as they mark the passing

seasons. The increments of time Grandma describes grow longer and increasingly abstract (A lifetime, of course, you can measure in all kinds of ways: in birthdays/ in friends/ in what you own.../ or in what you remember), especially when she reaches infinity (the stars tell us that Time is just/ too big to fit inside any watch or clock). But the girl narrator brings the text full circle and back down to earth with a quiet joke. If the time-measurement theme becomes a bit tedious for some readers, Lambert's flower-dotted hillsides and affectionately drawn characters will keep them involved. Ages 5-8. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 1-4-In this idyllic, pastoral tale, a child's free-spirited grandmother explains how she keeps track of time even though her only clock is broken. She wakes up in the morning to the songs of birds, knows the days of the week by the comings and goings of her neighbors, and takes cues from nature to follow the seasons. "An hour is the time it takes for the bathwater to go cold-," she says, and "A lifetime, of course, you can measure in all kinds of ways: in birthdays, in friends, in what you own- or in what you remember." Taking it even further, she claims that the movements of comets and stars and eclipses of the sun and moon are a satisfactory measure of the centuries. By the end, the little girl agrees that the broken grandfather clock in the hall is best used for storage. Lambert's hazy pastel illustrations depict characters with gentle expressions and soft, rounded features whiling away the day. The effect is charming and the story's premise is certainly attractive: who needs clocks, anyway? Unfortunately, the answer is that everybody else does, that's who. Grandmother's trusty Wednesday morning garbagemen only manage to clatter those cans because they set their alarm clocks on Tuesday night. It is nevertheless delightful for Grandmother to blithely pass her days without regard for clocks and calendars. Her minimalist approach to reality works on a cosmic scale and provides food for thought, even if it wouldn't fly in the workaday world. Catherine Threadgill, Charleston County Public Library, SC Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

What a sweet, sweet story. This makes a great read-aloud or present for grandma!

Cute story. My Granddaughter loved it.

This is a sweet, beautiful book! The muted illustrations are a perfect match to the lyrical text. My young daughter really enjoyed this book, and we had fun thinking of how many different ways you can keep time.

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