

# Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Mem Fox  
Illustrated by Julie Vivas  
1985  
New York: Kane/Miller

**LOVE**  
Australia  
Reading Time: 4 minutes

## CONCEPTS

Love  
Respect  
Generosity

## SUMMARY

**Wilfrid finds many friends at the old people's home next door. When he learns that his favorite, Miss Nancy, has lost her memory, Wilfrid gathers a basket of treasures that help restore Miss Nancy's own fond memories. Whimsical illustrations help readers remember Wilfrid's generous heart long after the story is over.**

## OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss love, respect, and generosity as they apply to this story. The student will be able to identify acts of love and generosity.

## Classroom Connections & Additional Activities

1. Visit a nursing home or senior center. Take photographs of the children with their older friends and post on a bulletin board back in the classroom. **SS**
2. Invite seniors into the classroom for a tea party. Ask them to tell stories of their early school experiences. **SS**
3. Role play the story, taking parts of the old people and Wilfrid. **LA**
4. Make a memory basket for your classroom. This could be an end-of-year activity with reminders of the school year together. Write a class story about why you chose these items. **LA**

# After the Story

## Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

### DISCUSSION

1. Why was Miss Nancy Wilfrid's favorite person at the old people's home? What was Miss Nancy's problem?
2. What did Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge do that showed he loved and cared about Miss Nancy? When Wilfrid gave Miss Nancy all the things he collected, what happened? How did they both feel about sharing the memories?
3. How do you know Wilfrid was generous, not selfish? What did he do for his other friends at the old people's home? Other than giving presents, how can you be generous?
4. Tell us about an older friend or relative you like to visit. How do you show love?

### ACTIVITIES

1. Form a circle with a soft ball or bean bag suitable for tossing. Toss the bean bag to someone in the circle and say something you like about him/her. Repeat until everyone has had a turn catching the bean bag.
2. Bring a "Token of Love" from home. Each child shares something received from someone she/he loves (a postcard, small gift, sea shell). Share the memory.
3. Give a "Token of Love" to an elderly family member or friend. (Make pictures, friendship bracelets, origami animals, hand prints ...)
4. Do something caring for someone today — but keep it a secret.

### WRAP-UP

In My Heartwood Journal, draw a picture of yourself with a favorite older person.

### EXTENSION

1. At home ask a grown-up to remember some older person he/she knew and loved when he/she was young.
2. Retell Wilfrid's story at home or find it in the public library or bookstore so you can enjoy it many times.

### VOCABULARY

**organ**  
**cricket**  
**lad**  
**tram**