

Don't Forget Your Jumper

Monty arrived at his grandparents' house with Dad and Daddy, like he did every Saturday. He gave Grandma a hug, then headed out to find Grandpa in the garden. On the way out, he passed Grandpa's chair and picked up the soft knitted jumper resting on the arm.



“Don't forget your jumper!” Monty called, running across the lawn.

“Thanks!” said Grandpa. “It's chilly out today.”

Grandpa knew everything about gardening. Monty loved learning the names of the plants and getting his hands dirty in the vegetable patch. Best of all, he loved seeing the daffodils come out in spring.



“Are we planting the daffodil bulbs soon?” Monty asked.

“Give it a few more weeks,” said Grandpa, handing him a gardening fork. “We need to get these weeds out first.”

The next week, Monty arrived, ready for gardening. "Don't forget your jumper!" he said.

"What would I do without you?" shivered Grandpa.

"Maybe we could plant the daffodil bulbs today," suggested Monty.



"We'll do it next week," smiled Grandpa. "Today, it's carrot-picking."

Monty grinned with excitement.

The following Saturday, Monty was woken by Dad, who had brought him a cup of warm milk. Dad snuggled up next to Monty and explained that Daddy was with Grandma. He had gone to see her on his own today.



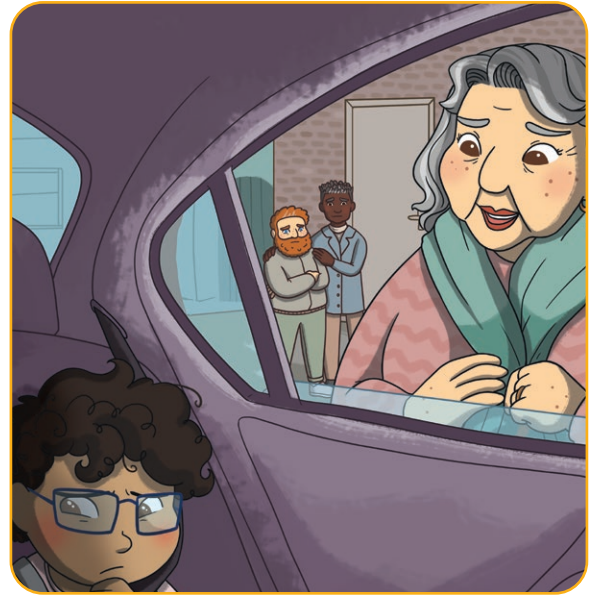
There had been some very sad news. Grandpa had died.

Monty felt angry. He didn't want Grandpa to be gone. Nothing felt the same any more and Monty's tummy hurt. Dad wrapped him up in his arms and they both cried together.

The next week, at Grandma's house, Monty didn't want to get out of the car. He felt worried. Grandma came out to see him.

"You can go and do some gardening if you like," she said.

"I don't know how without Grandpa," said Monty. "Gardening was something I did with him but he isn't here any more."



The next week, Monty sat by the front door while Dad and Daddy went inside. He felt lonely.

Grandma called out of the window, "Monty, why don't you go and do some gardening?"

"I don't know how without Grandpa," said Monty. "Gardening was our special thing and I can't do it on my own."

The next week, Monty stood at the living-room window. Weeds were starting to grow in the vegetable patch and the plants needed tidying. He felt sad. Grandma stood next to him.

"I wish Grandpa was still here," said Monty.

"So do I," said Grandma tearfully. "He may not be here but he left something behind for you."

"What is it?" asked Monty.

Grandma led Monty outside.



She asked him questions about the plants and vegetables. She asked Monty to tell her everything he knew.

So he did.



“That’s what Grandpa left you,” said Grandma. “Memories of all the time you spent together in this garden and everything he taught you along the way.”

“I guess he did teach me a lot,” said Monty.

“What’s your favourite memory of Grandpa?” asked Monty.

“On the day we got married,” said Grandma, “he gave me a bunch of daffodils. Every year since then, he has planted them in our garden to make me smile.”



Monty thought about how happy it would make Grandma to see the daffodils again next year. He knew how sad she was about losing Grandpa and wanted to make her smile.



He sneaked outside and put on his wellies. He fetched the gardening tools from the shed. As he opened the door, he felt a rush of sadness. Everything made him think of Grandpa.

Monty spent the rest of the day digging, planting and watering.

When spring came, Monty arrived at Grandma's house with Dad and Daddy, as usual.

Grandma was grinning and gave Monty the biggest hug ever.

"You wonderful boy," she said. "Your Grandpa would have been so proud of you."



Monty ran out to the garden as quickly as he could. There, in the middle of the lawn, was the most beautiful flowerbed full of bright yellow daffodils, swaying in the cool breeze.

"Don't forget your jumper," Grandma smiled. She handed him Grandpa's jumper and Monty wiped a tear from his face.

"They bloomed a few days ago and made me think of Grandpa," said Grandma. "Thank you, Monty."

"I remembered everything he taught me," said Monty. "He was a good teacher."

"The memories we made together will always be with us," said Grandma. "And that's why Grandpa will be too."



Questions

1. Who is the main character in this story? **Tick one.**

- Monty
- Grandma
- Dad

2. Which flowers does Monty like to see? **Tick one.**

- tulips
- roses
- daffodils

3. Who tells Monty that Grandpa has died? **Tick one.**

- his teacher
- Dad
- his friend

4. What did Grandpa leave for Monty? **Tick one.**

- memories of their time in the garden
- some books
- a hat

5. What does Monty do at the end of the story? **Tick one.**

- He writes a poem.
- He falls asleep.
- He plants the daffodils.

Answers

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Questions

1. What is the main character's name? **Tick one.**

- Martin
- Monty
- Milo

2. What do Grandpa and Monty enjoy doing together?

3. Draw **three** lines to complete each sentence.

There had been some ●

● daffodil bulbs soon?"

"I guess he did ●

● teach me a lot."

"Are we planting the ●

● very sad news.

4. What is Grandma's favourite memory of Grandpa?

5. Fill in the missing word.

"He was a good _____."

teacher

friend

person

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- Milo

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gardening (Accept answers related to this.)

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"I guess he did	teach me a lot."
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the day they got married / Grandpa giving Grandma daffodils

5. Fill in the missing word.

"He was a good **teacher.**"

teacher

friend

person

Questions

1. Who does Monty visit every Saturday? **Tick one.**

- his friends
 his grandparents
 his cousin

2. What does Monty love 'best of all'?

3. Find and copy a word that has been used instead of 'said'.

4. Draw **three** lines to match each word with its definition.

lawn

a part of a plant that lives underground

memory

grass in a garden

bulb

something remembered from the past

5. Find and copy four **adjectives** used to describe how Monty feels after Grandpa dies.

6. Why do you think Grandma says Grandpa would have been proud of Monty?

Answers

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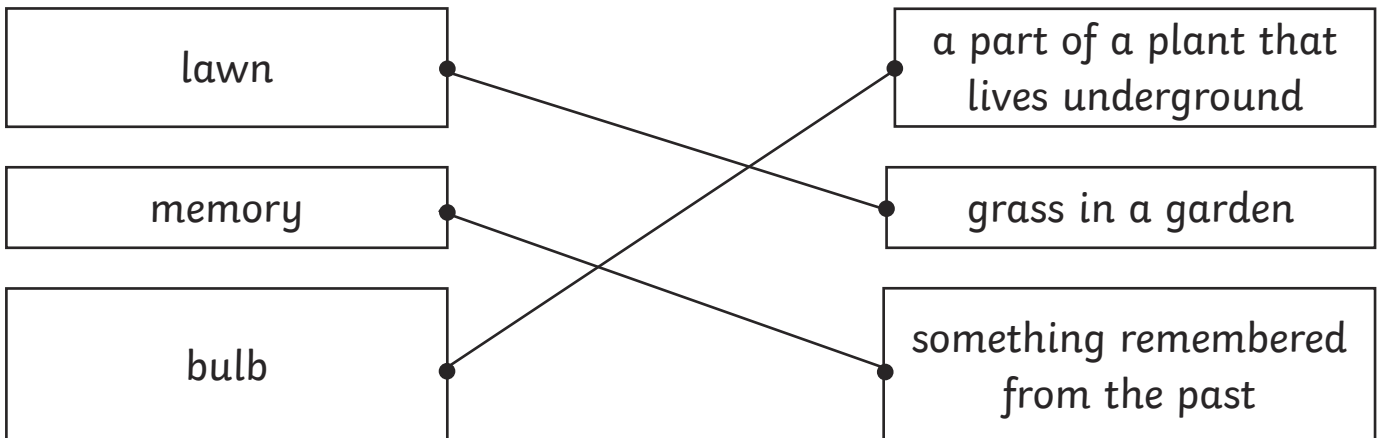
- his friends
 his grandparents
 his cousin

2. What does Monty love 'best of all'?
seeing the daffodils come out in spring

3. Find and copy a word that has been used instead of 'said'.

Accept any of the following: called, asked, shivered, suggested, smiled.

4. Draw **three** lines to match each word with its definition.



5. Find and copy four **adjectives** used to describe how Monty feels after Grandpa dies.

angry, worried, lonely, sad

6. Why do you think Grandma says Grandpa would have been proud of Monty?

Children's own answers related to Monty remembering everything his grandpa had taught him or wanting to make his grandma happy.