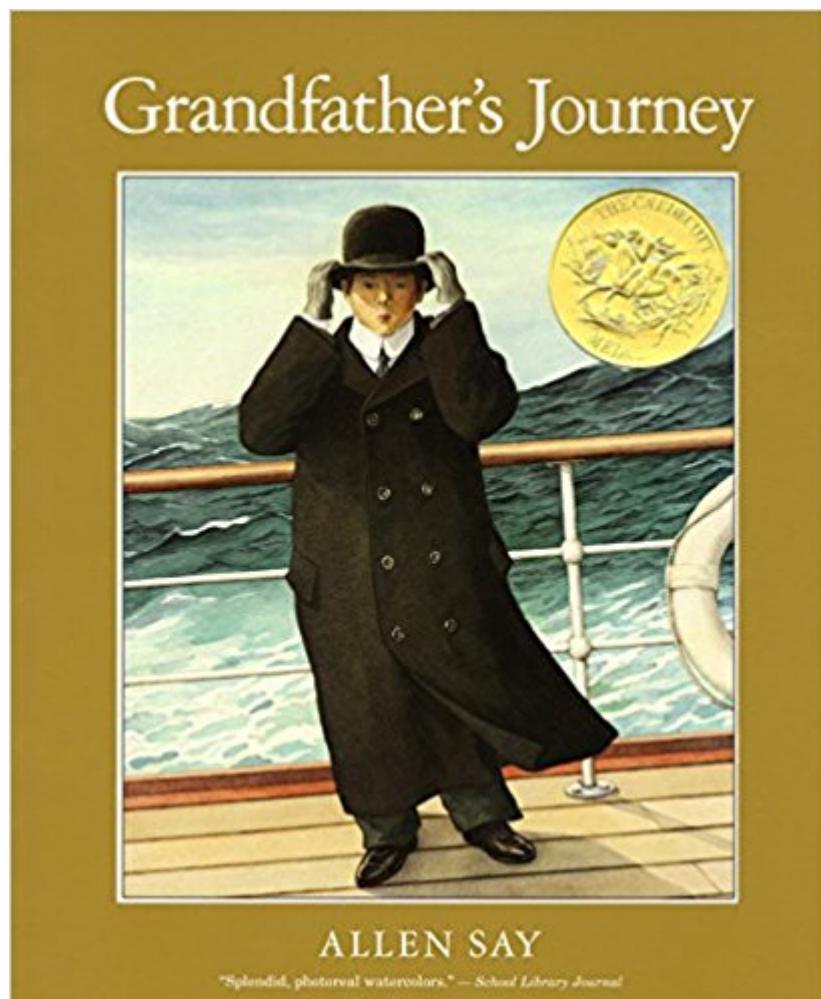


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# Grandfather's Journey



## **Synopsis**

Lyrical, breathtaking, splendidâ "words used to describe Allen Sayâ ™s Grandfatherâ ™s Journey when it was first published. At once deeply personal yet expressing universally held emotions, this tale of one manâ ™s love for two countries and his constant desire to be in both places captured readersâ ™ attention and hearts. Winner of the 1994 Caldecott Medal, it remains as historically relevant and emotionally engaging as ever.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 650 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 27, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547076800

ISBN-13: 978-0547076805

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.1 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 115 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #42,788 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #105 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction #120 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Home becomes elusive in this story about immigration and acculturation, pieced together through old pictures and salvaged family tales. Both the narrator and his grandfather long to return to Japan, but when they do, they feel anonymous and confused: "The funny thing is, the moment I am in one country, I am homesick for the other." Allen Say's prose is succinct and controlled, to the effect of surprise when monumental events are scaled down to a few words: "The young woman fell in love, married, and sometime later I was born." The book also has large, formal paintings in delicate, faded colors that portray a cherished and well-preserved family album. The book, for audiences ages 4 to 8, won the 1994 Caldecott Medal. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Say transcends the achievements of his *Tree of Cranes* and *A River Dream* with this breathtaking picture book, at once a very personal tribute to his grandfather and a distillation of universally shared emotions. Elegantly honed text accompanies large, formally composed paintings to convey Say's family history; the sepia tones and delicately faded colors of the art suggest a much-cherished and carefully preserved family album. A portrait of Say's grandfather opens the book, showing him in traditional Japanese dress, "a young man when he left his home in Japan and went to see the world." Crossing the Pacific on a steamship, he arrives in North America and explores the land by train, by riverboat and on foot. One especially arresting, light-washed painting presents Grandfather in shirtsleeves, vest and tie, holding his suit jacket under his arm as he gazes over a prairie: "The endless farm fields reminded him of the ocean he had crossed." Grandfather discovers that "the more he traveled, the more he longed to see new places," but he nevertheless returns home to marry his childhood sweetheart. He brings her to California, where their daughter is born, but her youth reminds him inexorably of his own, and when she is nearly grown, he takes the family back to Japan. The restlessness endures: the daughter cannot be at home in a Japanese village; he himself cannot forget California. Although war shatters Grandfather's hopes to revisit his second land, years later Say repeats the journey: "I came to love the land my grandfather had loved, and I stayed on and on until I had a daughter of my own." The internal struggle of his grandfather also continues within Say, who writes that he, too, misses the places of his childhood and periodically returns to them. The tranquility of the art and the powerfully controlled prose underscore the profundity of Say's themes, investing the final line with an abiding, aching pathos: "The funny thing is, the moment I am in one country, I am homesick for the other." Ages 4-8. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Beautiful. It is a wonder that such a simple book, could be so moving. Short, easy to read text combined with beautifully simple illustrations tell the story of Mr. Say's grandfather, who split his life between Japan and the United States, longing for both. This book would be perhaps especially cherished by those who know what it means to miss home. With a touch of history, this book could be tied into many different educational units American immigration, WWII, or perhaps inspire an interest in personal family history. I am to have added this beautiful book to our family library.

One of my favorite children's books. I love reading this with my students who have all come from

other country's and can relate to missing one country when you are in the other. The language is clear, and poetic. The pictures are beautiful. It's also great for teaching geography and land forms.

I used this book with a 3rd grade student during a multicultural unit plan for reading intervention. He enjoyed it, and was able to handle the level well. He also has poor eyesight, so being able to zoom in the text was great. The only negative thing, and this may have been a technical problem on my end, was that at first I couldn't send it to either of my devices, and had to access it on Kindle cloud. Now I can download it onto my iPhone without issue, though these types of books aren't really meant for such a small screen, especially with a young student. But, overall, this is a great book.

Fantastic artwork and story line. It shows life coming full circle and connecting the young with the old. It also touches on historic events that open a dialog with your child about history. A great way to get children excited about reading, learning and discussing a variety of topics. I'm so excited that this book came with a CD. I can't wait to give it to my niece for her birthday.

For anyone who has lived in more than one country and has part of their heart in each place, this book resonates. And it does that so beautifully. Both the artwork and the simple prose are outstanding. It's a children's book, but it encapsulates, like no other book, the experience of the person who has grown to love more than one country. I've bought several copies because I keep giving mine away as gifts to adults who I know will find it moving because they've experienced something similar. Love this book.

A beautiful story that so caringly follows the life of a Japanese immigrant who comes to the United States (but the story is a universal one).. The illustrations are wonderful and will captivate the reader. The book is short but very long on wisdom.

This is a wonderful book to read with beautiful art work for a kindergartener to enjoy. My daughter loved it.

I read this book as part of a Children's Literature class. I have lived overseas, so the story of a man who loves both Japan and America, and longs for America when he is in Japan and vice versa, really touched me. I have ordered it a number of times as a gift for friends. It's also a beautiful story of family.

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