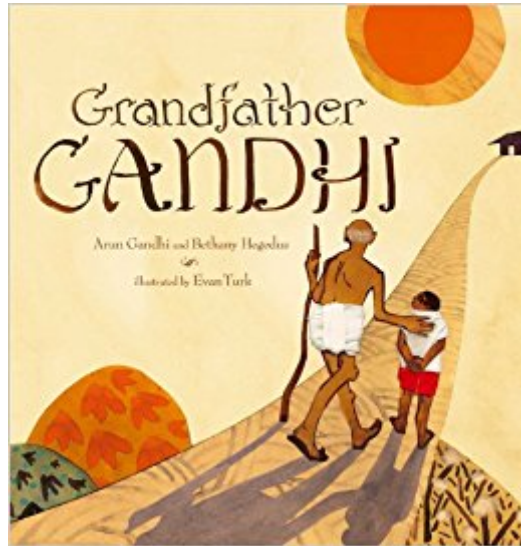




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# Grandfather Gandhi



## Synopsis

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson tells the story of how his grandfather taught him to turn darkness into light in this uniquely personal and vibrantly illustrated tale that carries a message of peace. How could he be so easy to anger? One thick, hot day, Arun Gandhi travels with his family to Grandfather Gandhi's village. Silence fills the air but peace feels far away for young Arun. When an older boy pushes him on the soccer field, his anger fills him in a way that surely a true Gandhi could never imagine. Can Arun ever live up to the Mahatma? Will he ever make his grandfather proud? In this remarkable personal story, Arun Gandhi, with Bethany Hegedus, weaves a stunning portrait of the extraordinary man who taught him to live his life as light. Evan Turk brings the text to breathtaking life with his unique three-dimensional collage paintings.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD600L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,797 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #178 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #502 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grandfather Mahatma Gandhi, as seen through the eyes of one of his grandsons, is depicted in this picture-book biography as a loving grandfather and a revered figure.

Twelve-year-old Arun and his family have come to live in his bapu's "service village," which is a great honor, but is also hard for young Arun, who must share his grandfather with so many others

demanding his time and attention. The boy frets over the difficulty of living up to the expectations that carrying the name Gandhi entails, and when a disagreement during a soccer game sparks his anger, Arun seeks out his wise and loving grandfather for comfort and advice. This is less a biography of a famous leader and more of an ode to a great man by an adoring grandson. While background details are left intentionally vague, i.e., the family's reasons for moving to India, memories of Gandhi himself are sharp and specific, lending an air of intimacy. The accompanying artwork is stunning, the use of mixed media collage is effective and beautiful, with varying perspectives and intriguing materials on display on every page. With so many biographies about Gandhi published recently, this one stands out for its unique point of view and gorgeous art, and makes a fine supplement to any collection. — Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

Twelve-year-old Arun Gandhi travels with his family from their home in South Africa to India to be with their grandfather, the Mahatma, in his service village of Sevagram, where they stay for two years. Arun loves his grandfather but resents all of the others who monopolize his time, and he worries about living up to his supreme example. He is a child, and like a child, he erupts in anger, seethes in frustration, and longs for connection. And his grandfather is there to tell him that anger is human and we must work to use it so it cannot use us. Collaborating with first-time picture-book author Hegedus, Arun Gandhi recalls his own childhood experiences, relating the stories in an immediate first-person voice. Working in mixed media, with pieces of fabric clothing and hand-cut, hand-painted figures, Turk mixes carefully detailed renderings with abstracted expressions of emotional struggle, achieving a powerful balance. A personal portrait of a legendary figure. Grades 1-4. --Thom Barthelmess

It's a great book, well written, with gorgeous pictures but what moved me most about it is Bethany Hegedus' story of how it came to be. Seeking solace after 9/11 she went to hear Arun Gandhi speak. His speech moved her so much she got it in her head that she would write a book with him. She was not even a published author at the time she approached him. What a crazy and amazing idea. And more crazy and amazing is that he didn't brush her off... he said "yes." It took 12 years to get the project to this point... but how awesome and amazing that it even happened.

This book is very cute with bright, bold illustrations that use an interesting art technique. The book is from the perspective of the little boy (Gandhi's grandson) as he works to learn how to channel his anger into more productive routes while worrying how he can live in the shadow of someone like his

grandfather. As an elementary school teacher, I loved reading this book with my students and discussing the different themes such as Indian culture, what it feels like when you aren't good at something, and how can we act when we're angry. I could see this book being used in K-3 or K-4 classrooms. It is a little longer so the younger ones might have a little trouble sitting through it, but great message!

Evan Turk's wonderful illustrations bring this story alive for children of all ages. What makes this lesson in nonviolence so valuable is that it is a true story, told to Bethany Hegedus by Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, from memories of the two years he spent living on his grandfather's compound, beginning at age 12. Hegedus, who was moved by hearing Arun Gandhi speak shortly after 9/11, catches his gentle spirit in the retelling.

Wonderful children's book. My daughter loved it.

This is one of the best children's books I've ever read. What an amazing story that all children should hear. The illustrations completely illuminate the story and are such beautiful works of art, they should be framed! Stunning colors, and visuals that cause you to think and relate. The theme is magically woven (pun intended) throughout the book.

I think this story has a wonderful message for children. It is great that it is a picture book that can be read to young children as that the reader can also learn a valuable lesson. If only everyone could follow the advice, the world would certainly be a better place. I donated this copy to my local library in hopes that it will be read by many.

A bit over my 5 year old grandsons reading comprehension but my son loved it and loved reading it to his son. Beautifully written.

The product arrived in tip top shape and in the time allotted for shipping. We had already read the book and wanted it for our collection. I highly recommend for 3-6th grade readers that want to learn about different cultures through the eyes of a child.

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