

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge  
*A Lesson Designed by E.A. Turner*

BOOK TITLE: Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge  
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SYNOPSIS: This story is beautifully written story about a little boy who lives next to a nursing home. When he hears that his 96-year old friend has lost her memory, he tries to learn what a memory is and works to help his friend regain hers. (Be sure the tissues are available when reading this sweet and touching story.)

QUESTION: What is a memory?

WHISPER VALUES:

*The "WHISPER" system for teaching values was created by Lynn Barnes.*

Wisdom -- Wilfrid Gordon doesn't know what a memory is, but tries to learn. He seeks information and advice from others.

Honor -- Wilfrid Gordon honors the memories of his friend, Miss Nancy.

Internal Control --

Spirit -- Wilfrid Gordon believes one little boy can make a difference.

Persistence -- Wilfrid Gordon doesn't understand what a memory is, but persists by asking many people. He keeps trying to find the memory that Miss Nancy lost.

Excellence --

Relationships -- Wilfrid Gordon's friendship with Miss Nancy is important to him and he works on it by trying to help her.

QUESTION: What is in the basket? (For this presentation, take a large seashell and an egg shell.)  
What do the two things have in common? (Kids will give a wide variety of responses, some abstract and artistic, others scientific and literal.)

What is in the basket? In the story, Wilfrid Gordon puts items in a basket to help trigger Miss Nancy's memory. Wilfrid includes a shoe-box of shells, a puppet, a medal from his grandfather, a football, and an egg from the hen house. In our basket, we will have a large seashell, large enough for "hearing the ocean", and a chicken egg.

What do the two things have in common? They are both "shells". They both are made of calcium carbonate. The calcium makes them hard. What part of your body contains calcium? What foods do you eat to provide calcium to keep your bones and teeth hard?

**INQUIRY**

**Investigation:**

The students will hear of a little boy who asks a question and hears different answers from everyone he asks. He puts the ideas together to create his own plan to solve a problem.

**Connections:**

The students will hear of connections made between people of different ages. They will learn a little about memory and appreciate that they can learn things now, but sometimes people also forget what they once knew for a long time. They will see connections between shells and their own bodies, all containing calcium.

**Communication:**

The students will consider the questions and communicate their ideas and understanding with the class during a group conversation.

**Constructing Meaning:**

Students will know many things about memory from their own experiences and will share this information and learn from each other.