



Our Granny is a walking catastrophe, and she needs supervision day and night! Read about her adventures in Granny Guru.

Story 1 - Circus Granny

Granny decides to have another shot at fame when the circus comes to town and it turns out to be a real blast.

1. Granny wants to perform in the circus. What sort of circus performer would you be? A lion tamer, a clown, a juggler or tightrope walker? Discuss in small groups. Think about what your talents are, or have fun with the idea and let your imagination run wild, just as Granny's does!
2. Create a small circus performance with your group using both your skills and dreams, and perform it for the rest of the class! Think about how to keep your audience amused and entertained.
3. Granny says that it is a (pg 6) "... *Dream of mine to be a circus performer*". Have a class discussion about all the different sorts of jobs there are. What would you like to do when you leave school?
4. Fear and Courage. Have a class discussion about what fears are and how to overcome them. That doesn't necessarily mean sticking your head in a lion's mouth! Then write about what you are frightened of, or how you overcame a fear. Think about how a fear can make something seem worse than it actually is.

5. What do you think of Granny's plan to save Tina (pg25)? Could you think of another way to save her? Write a chapter using your alternative.
6. Create a poster that advertises that the circus is coming to town. Include some of the information from Granny's story.
7. Granny is famous. What would you like to be famous for? Being blasted out of a cannon, an invention, being a movie star or maybe playing sport? Write about your new-found fame and how it makes you feel.

Story 2 - Granny Rock Star

Granny's been invited to play with a famous rock band. Now she just has to learn how to play guitar...

1. Write some rap lyrics about Granny's adventures. If you're feeling really confident, you can perform it for the whole class.
2. Pretend you are a magazine journalist. Choose another student as 'Granny' and conduct an interview. You can present it as a play to the class or as a written project.
3. Granny plays air guitar in her performance. What other sorts of instruments could be 'air played'?
4. Create a band, choose a song, and perform for the class.
5. A rock star can earn millions of dollars if they become famous. Do you think this is fair? What jobs do you consider to be worth this income? Footy players? Politicians? Teachers?
6. Create a CD cover for Granny Rock Star. Make sure you include a name for the CD and a list of song titles on the back cover.
7. Granny annoys her neighbours by making a lot of awful noise when she is learning to play guitar. We need to be considerate of our neighbours. Apart from noise pollution, what other things should we consider?
8. In the story, Granny and her grandchildren spend time looking in the attic. Do you have a place where you keep things you don't use anymore? Decorate a shoe box or something similar and label it My Treasures. Think about what special things you might keep inside it

About the author and illustrator :

Jan Dallimore is a private tutor and her students are her best critics. Now that she is a five-time grandmother, she is more than qualified to write about the adventures of a groovy, spunky and way-out Granny.

Heath MacKenzie is a Melbourne-based artist. He is inspired by too much television, too many movies, music, movie posters, 50s and 60s commercial art, Japanese signs, cartoons and toys. All these influences have helped Heath create the grooviest Granny ever.