

A Standards-Aligned Educator's Guide

# MY SUPERHERO GRANDPA



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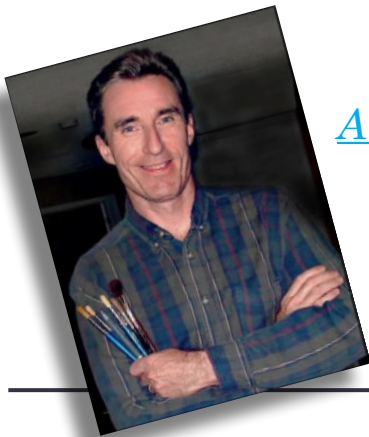
Page Count: 24

## About the book:

*2016 Moonbeam Children's Book Award Winner! A beautiful story of a boy and his beloved grandpa, who watches over him with super powers, even though grandpa is in Heaven. This sweet, sentimental story will help little one's understand and cope with the loss of a grandparent. My Superhero Grandpa is cheerfully illustrated and uplifting.*

## About the author:

**Michele McAvoy** lives in New Jersey with her husband and two small children. While she spent many years enjoying the busy life of New York City where she attended college and law school, Michele returned to suburbia after the birth of her son. Michele began writing creatively as an outlet after the tragic loss of her father. Her children's stories draw inspiration from this loss as well as the joys of being a mother. The result is a unique balance of introspection and childhood whimsy. Michele's books are meant to help children understand and respect their emotions. Her stories are simply told and uplifting with colorful and cheerful illustrations.



## About the illustrator:

Over the past 13 years, **Mike Motz** and his company of fellow illustrators have created illustrations for hundreds of children's books. Mike loves working with both first time and experienced authors to make their dreams of bringing their children's book to life a reality.

## Pre-Reading Discussion Questions:

### **Observe the illustration on the front cover.**

- Describe the action occurring in the illustration.
- Identify the person flying in the air, high above the ground. Explain how that person is able to fly.
- Observe the boy standing on the ground. Tell how the boy feels about the man flying in the air. How do you know?
- Identify clues that reveal the setting of the story.

### **Discuss the title of the book, MY SUPERHERO GRANDPA.**

- Tell all that you know about superheroes. List their superhuman strengths.
- Define the true purpose of superheroes. What is it that superheroes want to do most of all?
- Discuss the possibility of a grandfather being a superhero. Examine ways that a grandfather might possess superhero tendencies. Where would his powers come from?

## Post-Reading Discussion Questions:

***My grandpa is a superhero.  
He is big and strong.***

***He watches over my family each day and all year long.***

- A 'superhero' is defined as being a human with extraordinary physical and mental powers. Superheroes use these powers to protect the innocent and fight for the greater good. Describe what it would be like if you had your own superhero, protecting you each day and all year long. How would that make you feel?
- The boy describes his superhero as being 'big and strong'. Is physical strength an important superpower for superheroes to have? List other types of superpowers that help superheroes to protect those that they care for.
- List the superpowers that you feel would be most important for a superhero to possess. Explain why they would be beneficial.

***I never need to worry because my grandpa is always there.***

- Determine how superheroes know when they are needed. Where does that ability come from?
- The word *confidence* means to have faith and belief in oneself. Explore how having a personal superhero would effect someone's confidence.

***I'm lucky because God gave me a different superhero way.***

- Some superheroes were given their super powers by another source. For example, Superman gets his super powers from the sun. Ironman's super powers come from his armored suit. Identify where Superhero Grandpa got his super powers. Explain your answer.
- Superman has x-ray vision and can move at super sonic speed. Spiderman is able to cling to most surfaces and has keen sensory abilities. Describe Superhero Grandpa's super powers.
- Can love be a super power? How so?
- Explore what the phrase 'a different superhero way' means. Consider how Superhero Grandpa is a different type of superhero, one that is devoted to his grandson.



***And in my dreams he tells me, "You never need to fear...  
...for I am your Superhero Grandpa,  
and I am always near."***

- The opposite of *fear* is *courage* and *bravery*. Tell how Superhero Grandpa helped the boy to fight away his fears.
- Superhero Grandpa promises to be with the boy...always. How is this possible?

### Extension Activity:

- Print the Form Poem template found on the following page.
- Gather paper, pencil, and colored markers.
- On a sheet of paper, list at least twelve words to describe super human strengths and abilities. (Note: Sometimes everyday acts can be considered to be super human traits.)
- Next write the names of people in your life that mean a great deal to you. Choose a person that you'd like to transform into your own, personal superhero.
- Using the Form Poem template, write the name of your personal superhero on the designated lines.
- Choose six of your most powerful super human words. Write them on the lines provided.
- Illustrate your work. Draw an action scene featuring you and your personal superhero. Share work with the class.

Aunt Carole

Kind,

creative,

listener,

helper,

happy,

faithful,

Aunt Carole  
My Superhero

### **Common Core State Anchor Standards Alignment:**

Reading: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.10

Writing: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3, W.4, W.9

Speaking & Listening: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1, SL.2, SL.5, SL.6



My Superhero: \_\_\_\_\_  
Write the name of your superhero here.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /

\_\_\_\_\_

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