Reader Guide:
Surf Soup® My Hula Is Broken
A Gentle Story About Grandparents, Healing, and Hula
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A Note to Teachers, Librarians & Homeschool Families
Surf Soup®: My Hula Is Broken is designed as a gentle, flexible read-aloud that supports Social-Emotional Learning, caregiving conversations, and movement-based exploration. This story works beautifully in classrooms, libraries, and homeschool settings where calm storytelling, discussion, and compassion are valued.
There are no right or wrong answers — the focus is on noticing, trying, and supporting one another.

Learning Focus (SEL-Aligned)
Self-Awareness
Notice how the body feels during movement and rest
Recognize emotions connected to aging, frustration, and healing
Social Awareness
Develop empathy for grandparents and elders
Understand caregiving as an act of love
Relationship Skills
Practice encouragement and patience
Learn how families support one another
Responsible Decision-Making
Explore safe, gentle ways to move and heal
Respect personal limits and changing abilities
Discussion Questions
Why did Grandma think her hula was broken?
How did the Kumus help her feel supported?

Why is gentle movement important?
How can we show care to grandparents or elders?
What does "learning never ends" mean?

Activities & Extensions

Gentle Movement Practice
Try slow swaying or simple arm movements. Focus on breathing and comfort rather than perfection.

Family Story Sharing
Invite students to share stories about grandparents or elders who have taught them something important.

Shell Condo Art
Draw Honi's shell and imagine how the Kumus live inside when they travel and return to the 88 Shrine.

Cultural Exploration
Discuss how different cultures use dance and movement to tell stories and heal.

Classroom & Homeschool Use

SEL instruction
Caregiving and empathy lessons
Cultural studies
Movement and mindfulness integration
Intergenerational storytelling