Picture book stories about dementia for young readers

**Celia & Nonna** / Victoria Lane & Kayleen West.
This book introduces the reader to a young girl and her Nonna, who has Alzheimer’s disease. With a strong focus on memory loss, this book addresses the themes of disease progression and Nonna’s successful transition into a nursing home. The young girl continues to visit Nonna and their relationship remains strong.

**Do You Remember?** / Kelly O’Gara & Anna McNeil
A poignant book about dementia with beautiful illustrations. The characters in this story are a lovable family of mice. Describes memory loss as well as other common changes we might notice when someone has dementia. At the back of the book there is a nice explanation about dementia, a section for the child on how they might be feeling and some communication tips and ideas.

**Grandma** / Jessica Shepherd
A story about a very young boy and his grandma as grandma’s condition necessitates a move to a nursing home. In a simple and animated way, this book depicts a child adjusting to these changes and adopting some useful coping strategies. Some educational facts in the back.

**Grandma forgets** / Paul Russell and Nicky Johnston
A heart-warming story of a family bound by love as they cope with their grandma’s dementia. They sometime need to remind their grandmother a little more often than they used to about how much they care. She might not remember any of their names but she will always know how much she is loved.

**Grandpa Seashells** / Jo Johnson
A simple but informative book for young children describing some common symptoms of dementia and the emotional responses of young family members. Promotes the positive message that all feelings are OK and that it helps to share our worries. Written by a neuropsychologist, this book has some dementia related activities in the back as well as extra notes for parents.
Harry Helps Grandpa Remember / Karen Tyrrell, illustrated by Aaron Pocock
Harry and Grandpa love playing hide-and-seek together. Over time Grandpa becomes grumpy and forgetful, refusing to play games with Harry anymore.
On Grand-parent’s Day, Grandpa becomes confused and lost. He couldn’t even remember Harry’s name. Harry discovers clever ways to boost Grandpa’s memory. How does Harry help Grandpa remember?

Lucas and Jack / Ellie Royce and Andrew McLean.
A story about a boy who regularly visits his grandpa in a nursing home. Over the course of the book he moves from being bored and uncomfortable to getting to know some of the other residents and coming to appreciate their company. This book promotes the concept of valuing people over shallow stereotype.

Mile-high Apple Pie / Laura Langston and Lindsey Gardiner
This delightful book does not gloss over the challenges of memory loss. It is written from the point of view of a young girl grappling with her own interpretation of these symptoms of dementia. Ideas explored include grief and loss, coping with change and the extra responsibilities taken on by young children when caring for a family member at home.

Nanny’s quite befuddled / Liz Dowsett
A light hearted story as seen through the eyes of a grandchild.
This resource is useful to help start conversations with children about dementia and the changes that may be happening to their grandparent or someone they love.

Really and truly: a story about dementia / Rivard, Emilie
Charlie used to love his grandfather’s stories, but now Grandpa has changed and he doesn’t tell them anymore. Charlie still remembers the stories though, and he has a great idea - he can tell them back to Grandpa! And, just occasionally, he can make Grandpa smile...This book is designed to give parents of children whose family member has dementia a way into discussing the changes that are taking place, and how they might deal with them.

Still My Grandma / Veronique Van den Abeele
About a young girl and her grandma, this story outlines the inevitable progression of dementia and also portrays her experience of visiting her grandmother in a residential care facility.
Striped shirts and Flowered pants / Barbara Schnurbush
An instructive story about Alzheimer’s disease, describing a few different symptoms including confusion and behaviour change. This story depicts a family working well together.

Under the rose bush / Jane Fry; illustrator Sandi Harrold
Sarah and her Granny are great friends. They spend a lot of time playing and learning together, gradually Sarah notices changes in her Granny. Sarah learns to adjust to the situation as her grandmother ages. Her story provides a sense of optimism despite the grief of eventually losing her beloved grandmother. The book helps children to understand the illness and teaches them how to cope with supporting their grandparents through a difficult time.

When I see grandma / written by Debra Tidball; illustrated by Leigh Hedstrom
A young girl visits her Grandma and 'brightens her dreams' whilst her little brother charms the nursing home residents with his playful antics. This is a joyful and poignant celebration of life and love with vibrant illustrations of present day and yesteryear

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge / Written by Mem Fox, illustrated by Julie Vivas
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, knows and likes all of the old folks in the home next door, but his favourite is Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper she has four names, too. Hearing that she has lost her memory, he asks the old folks what a memory is (“Something from long ago”; “Something that makes you laugh;” “Something warm;” etc.), ponders the answers, then gathers up memories of his own (seashells collected long ago last summer, a feathered puppet with a goofy expression, a warm egg fresh from the hen) to give her. In handling Wilfrid's memories, Nancy finds and shares her own.

For comprehensive support and information for children and young people of all ages impacted by a diagnosis of dementia in their family please visit the website

Dementia in My Family dementiainmyfamily.org.au