Grandparenting

When I stopped the bus to pick up Chris for preschool, I noticed an older woman hugging him as he left his house. “Is that your grandmother?” I asked. “Yes,” Chris said. “She came to visit for a few weeks.” “How nice,” I said. “Where does she live?” “At the airport,” Chris replied. “Whenever we want her we just go out there and get her.” *(Muriel Lowe, in Vantage)*

Wife says to husband: “You’re not allowed to be a grandfather anymore; you’re a ‘grandperson.’” (*Jim Unger, in Classic Herman comic strip)*

Grandpa: "Would you say we're better at being grandparents than we were at being parents?" Grandma: "Well, we certainly weren't perfect parents. I think we're better as grandparents." Grandpa: "I agree." Grandma: "Maybe we should've skipped parenthood and gone straight to grandparents." *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)*

Grandma: “Where have you been?” Grandpa: “Talking to our neighbor, Bud Long, down the street. Today’s his eighty-fifth birthday.” Grandma: “Really? How’s he doing?” Grandpa: “Great. He says there’s only one thing he doesn’t like about being eighty-five.” Grandma: “What’s that?” Grandpa: “Seeing his grandkids reaching middle age.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)*  
An elderly woman in Florida was bragging about her two grandchildren. Finally a fellow sunbather interrupted her. “Tell me, how old are your grandsons?” “The doctor is 4 and the lawyer is 6,” the grandmother replied. *(Rocky Mountain News)*

Stork Quotation: The daughter of friends of ours gave birth to a son. Her father, who is a printer, promptly sent us his business card, with this notation: "Grandfather. Information furnished. No charge, 24-hour service." *(Lois T. Henderson, in Reader's Digest)*

Every summer we make it a practice to send our kids away to the most reliable, most secure, least expensive place we know. It's called Camp Grandma. *(Robert Orben)*  
The reason grandparents and children get along so well is that they have a common enemy. *(Sam Levenson)*

Our ten-month-old son is in the grabbing stage, and placing him in the backpack carrier I often use is courting disaster. Returning to the car after marketing one day, my mission-accomplished sigh was cut short when I noticed a roll of mints in Michael's chubby little hand. I was preparing to return and pay, when I found this note tucked inside the carrier: "Compliments of a grandfather. " *(Cherie Peacock, in Reader's Digest)*

Danny was only three when he and his daddy came to live with us for a year. Every morning we would stand at the door and throw kisses and wave good-bye as Grandpa and Daddy left for their jobs. Then Danny and Grandma would get the house in order so we could build skyscrapers with building blocks and journey into wonderful places reading book after book. Later we would walk our country lane out to the highway to get the mail each day and listen to the wind whisper through the tall fir trees. After work one evening, Grandpa swung Danny in the air and said, “Let’s go get a hamburger.” As we drove three-quarters of an hour to town we sang and talked and then it grew quiet. Danny was thinking. He said, “Grandpa has a job and Daddy has a job and when I grow up, I’ll have a job.” “That’s right, Danny,” said Grandpa. After a little more thought, Danny added, “And when Grandma grows up she’s get a job too.” *(Marilyn K. McAuley)*

Few things are more delightful than grandchildren fighting over your lap. *(Doug Larson, United Feature Syndicate)*

I know my company has made a big effort to be family friendly, but I was baffled when I read this holiday announcement posted on the bulletin board: "All employees are invited to the annual Christmas party. All children under the age of ten will receive a gift from Santa. Employees who have no children may bring grandchildren." *(Kristin Bayhan, in Reader's Digest)*

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God has no grandchildren. *(Dr. David Alkins)*

Grandchildren are God's way of compensating us for growing old. *(Mary H., Waldrip, in Dawson County, Georgia, Advertiser and News)*

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Billy: “Grandma, could you have some more grandchildren for us to play with?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

A lot of my friends missed our 50th high-school reunion. They couldn’t find baby-sitters for their grandchildren. *(Merrilyn Belgum, in St. Paul Pioneer Press)*

**In the home my grandmother created, I find the beginnings of the love I have inherited. *(Lois Wyse, in Funny, You Don’t Look like a Grandmother)***

**Dolly: “Honor thy father and thy mother . . . And thy grandmother.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

Wanting to take her youngsters on an outing, our daughter drove them to the zoo and then to the museum, only to find both closed. Undaunted, 4-year-old Emily suggested, “Let’s go to Grandpa and Grandma’s house. They’re always open.” *(Joan Carlsgaard, in Country Woman)*

Dennis says to his Mom: “Grandpa says he’s not retired. He still has two jobs. He’s your Dad, and my Grandpa.” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)*

**Grandchildren are the love affair of old age. *(Anne Morrow Lindbergh)***

**A grandmother is a mother who has a second chance. *(To Grandma & Grandpa, edited by Richard & Helen Exley)***

Grandma: “How nice! Bob and Mary named their babyafter me.” Billy: “They named their baby ‘Grandma’?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

**Some nice things about being a great-grandmother: You can play with your great-grandchildren and not worry about getting them ready for school or seeing that they’ve done their homework. They love to hear stories of “when you were a little girl” and this gives you a chance to share and enjoy old memories. They don’t mind your wrinkles, and they don’t advise you what to do. They love your unconditionally, just as you do them. When you walk with them, they will adjust their steps to yours--even the little ones. I always thought being a grandmother was great, but being a great-grandmother is even better! *(Virginia Martino, in Reminisce Extra magazine)***

**Grandma orcas know best: Like many human families, killer whales often rely on the wisdom of matriarchs to help them endure hardships and thrive, new research has found. Male orcas usually live for about 50 years, but females often survive well into their 90s, making them one of the few mammals that live for decades after they stop reproducing. Marine scientists studied the behavior of 102 whales over the course of eight years and found female killer whales take on a vital leadership role after menopause. Older females often swim in the front and direct their pods' movements, particularly when food is scarce. In some cases, the number of whales in a group declined dramatically following the death of its oldest female. "These findings suggest that menopausal females may boost the survival of their relatives through the transfer of ecological knowledge, which may help explain why killer whales continue to live long after they have stopped reproducing," Lauren Brent, one of the researchers from the University of Exeter, tells BBC.com. The findings may also explain why humans are built to survive for decades after fertility ends. *(The Week magazine, March 27, 2015)***

Grandpa: “It’s true. I’ve outlived my usefulness. I’ve produced and raised my offspring. Biologically I’m no longer needed.” Boy: “That’s not true, Grampa. Somebody has to be here to spoil the grandson!” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)*

“Little did I realize when we stood before the minister,” said the silver-haired man, “that 40 years later, without any teeth, I’d be eating peanut brittle to keep from hurting the feelings of a 12-year-old granddaughter whose Scout troop was selling the stuff.” *(Priscilla J. Herbison and Cynthia Herbison Tambornino, in God Knows Grandparents Make a Difference)*

A grandmother is a person with too much wisdom to let that stop her from making a fool of herself over her grandchildren. *(Phil Moss, in National Enquirer)*

A grandmother pretends she doesn’t know who you are on Halloween. *(Erma Bombeck)*

The proliferation of support groups suggests that too many Americans are growing up in homes that do not contain a grandmother. *(Florence King, in Reflections in a Jaundiced Eye)*

To reform a man, start with his grandmother. *(Victor Hugo)*

A grandmother is a mother who has a second chance. *(To Grandma & Grandpa, edited by Richard and Helen Exley)*

During a school open house, a youngster introduced his grandfather to his third-grade teacher. “Is he on your mother’s side or your father’s side?” the teacher asked the boy. “Oh,” the lad replied, “he sticks up for both.” *(Herm Albright, in Catholic Digest)*

The simplest toy, one which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent. *(Sam Levenson)*

It was Christmas Day, and we had all gathered for the holiday meal at the home of my husband's parents. After dessert, my mother-in-law left the table and returned carrying a bowl filled with slips of paper. Each adult was instructed to take one. Excited, we did so, wondering what surprise she had thought up for us. My slip of paper instructed me to dry the dishes; another person was told to wash them. Others had to do pots and pans. Then, with all the parents out of the way, Grandma and Grandpa went into the living room and enjoyed their grandchildren. *(Merna Alexander, in Reader's Digest)*

If I had known grandchildren were so much fun, I’d have had them first. *(Dorothy Galyean, in Quips & Quotes and Cleaned up Jokes)*

Dolly says to Billy: “I wanna be a grandma someday so I’ll know how to bake ‘licious cookies.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

In the Bradenton, Florida. Shopping Guide: "Wanted -- one grandma in exchange for room and board. Must be experienced in hugging." *(Reader's Digest)*

When I was a child you pampered me and bounced me on your knee. You gave me kisses, hugs, and toys, and fed me constantly. When I was hurt, to the circle of your arms I’d always flee. Your warm smile and twinkling eyes made me know you loved me. The presents ‘round our Christmas tree were always piled so high. The table containing sweets were so pleasing to the eye. Thanksgiving prayers said hand in hand – our families closely drew. We thanked God for keeping us safe; and I thanked God for you. Now I’m big and you cannot bounce me on your knee, but the warm smiles and loving eyes you gave I still receive. Unimportant are the toys you gave me as I grew. What is important simply is – my abiding love for you. *(Kelly L. Sutterfield. age 15)*

**A 23-year-old Romanian woman has become the world’s youngest grandmother. Rifca Stanescu eloped at age 11 and gave birth to a daughter, Maria, when she was only 12. She urged Maria to stay in school and not follow in her footsteps, but Maria married when she was 10, and had a baby six months later. “I am happy to be a grandmother,” says Rifca, “but wished more for Maria.” Rifca’s mother, who is now a great-grandmother, is 40. (The Week magazine, March 18, 2011)**

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