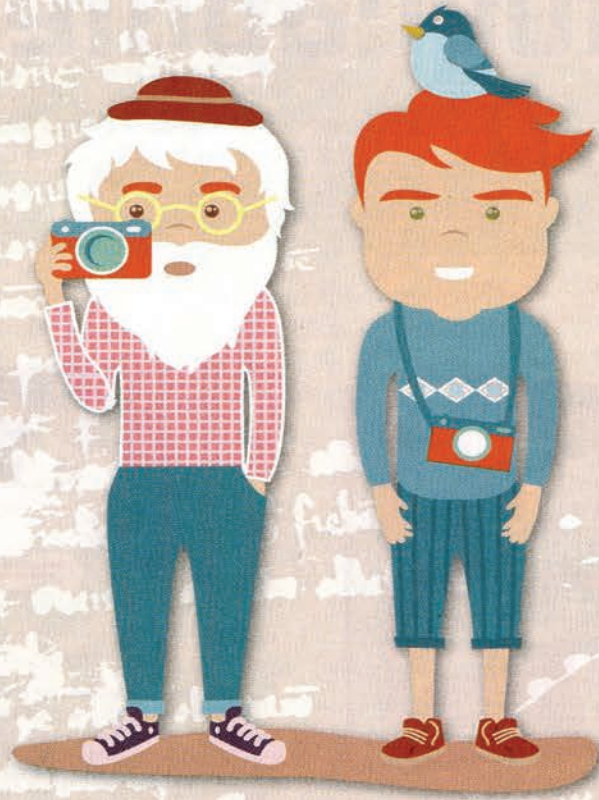


focuson

Intergenerational Relationships



Old Friends

PEOPLE OF THE SAME GENERATION often speak the same cultural language, from slang to music. That's why it can feel easier at times to communicate with peers than even family. However, beautiful things can happen when we stretch ourselves to befriend individuals from other generations. This column focuses on narratives in which people cross intergenerational divides.

In most of the stories, characters encounter obstacles, puzzles, or frustration on the road to open communication. It is instructive and inspiring to read of these journeys. They remind us how we can enrich our perspectives on the world through such relationships, often coming to understand ourselves better in the process. Many of the titles lend themselves to reading aloud or sharing between older and younger people, which will encourage intergenerational bonding, dialogue, and understanding. They also support

By Jess deCourcy Hinds

Common Core State Standards across all grades—especially ELA standards relating to the comparison of one narrative or point of view to another. Intergenerational stories are all about multiplicity and complexity; we learn about present and past, contemporary and historical perspectives. We learn about multicultural families and immigrant stories. We delve into two or more homelands, languages, cultures, attitudes, and beliefs. Along with the bold characters, readers embark on a journey toward new insights. Despite the wide diversity of cultures and literary styles represented here, all of the books share a universal theme: the desire for connection across the boundaries of age.

