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**Grandfather Gandhi** Arun Gandhi , Bethany Hegedus , Evan Turk (Illustrator)

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson tells the story of how his grandfather taught him to turn darkness into light in this uniquely personal and vibrantly illustrated tale that carries a message of peace.

*How could he "a Gandhi" be so easy to anger?*

One thick, hot day, Arun Gandhi travels with his family to Grandfather Gandhi's village.

Silence fills the air, but peace feels far away for young Arun. When an older boy pushes him on the soccer field, his anger fills him in a way that surely a true Gandhi could never imagine. Can Arun ever live up to the Mahatma? Will he ever make his grandfather proud?

In this remarkable personal story, Arun Gandhi, with Bethany Hegedus, weaves a stunning portrait of the extraordinary man who taught him to live his life as light. Evan Turk brings the text to breathtaking life with his unique three-dimensional collage paintings.

## Grandfather Gandhi Details

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Author : Arun Gandhi , Bethany Hegedus , Evan Turk (Illustrator)

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**Download and Read Free Online Grandfather Gandhi Arun Gandhi , Bethany Hegedus , Evan Turk (Illustrator)**

## From Reader Review Grandfather Gandhi for online ebook

### Hannah says

I want to give this book to everyone I know. A beautifully-told story that provokes great questions about transforming anger into mindfulness and compassion. The lightning/lamp metaphor for anger and its channeling is an excellent one that even very young readers will be able to relate to. And the illustrations! So good. Arun's anger is translated perfectly in Evan Turk's collages of paint, fabric, and yarn--cotton, very appropriately. I also love that tea is a medium in his illustrations--he used it to stain the paper used for the some of the illustrations, and it helps make the vibrant colors jump off the page even more while imparting a warmth that reflects the relationship between Arun and his grandfather.

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### Paula says

Not only a reminiscence of one of the most revered humans who ever lived, this fine book is also a meditation on anger and control. Arun's grandfather provides a hard-to-live-up-to example of patience and service, but when Arun loses his shit on the soccer field, he validates the child's feelings of frustration and helplessness while giving him some ideas of how to cope with those feelings.

The art is spectacular. Inky scrawls and jazzy, expressive figures are collaged with lovely papers and watercolor patterns, with the genius addition of scraps of white cotton floss and cloth. Shadows play a large part in the art - it is clear that Arun feels overwhelmed by the outsize shadow his diminutive grandfather casts, but by the end of the book, the shadows take on a different meaning, indicating the effect each individual's actions can have on the world.

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### Amy Forrester says

When young Arun comes to live with his Grandfather Gandhi at Sevagram in India, he has a difficult time trying to live up to the Gandhi name, which leads to his anger and frustration. Through discussions with his grandfather, Arun comes to understand his anger and how he can use it in a positive, rather than a negative, way. The bright sun and intense heat of India are wonderfully depicted in the mixed medium illustrations, which use yarn, cotton fabric, pencil, tin foil, and even tea. Turk deftly manipulates shadows and proportions to convey Arun's emotions and perceptions. The text uses words deliberately, allowing this quiet story to speak volumes about anger, emotions, confidence, and peace. Although this book is not a biography of Mahatma Gandhi, it is a beautiful tribute to the man and his message for his grandson and the world. This book is an excellent choice for independent readers, as well as sharing with upper elementary classes.

Full Review at Picture-Book-a-Day: <http://picturebookaday.blogspot.com/2014/08/grandfather-gandhi.html>

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### Tasha says

When Arun went to stay at his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi's village, he worried that he would not be able to live up to his famous name. Arun walked all the way from the station to the village and made his grandfather proud, but he continued to fret that he would not do the right thing the next time. The village was very different from where he lived before. Arun had to share his grandfather's attention with 350 followers who lived there as well. Arun struggled with his studies and the other kids teased him as well. He found the meditation and prayers difficult too. His grandfather urged him to give it time, that peace would come. However, Arun just found it more and more frustrating. When Arun finally lost his temper with another boy, he had to tell his grandfather about it, worried that he would be told that he would never live up to his name. How will Mahatma Gandhi react to this angry young man?

Gandhi relates his own memories of his grandfather, offering his honest young reactions to this amazing yet also formidable man. The book resulted from Arun recounting childhood stories aloud. Hegedus emailed him afterwards and asked to work on a book with him, though she felt very unworthy of such a project. The book is beautifully written and speaks to everyone who has felt that electric anger surge through them too. Hegedus sets the stage very nicely for the lesson, allowing time for Arun's anger to build even as she shows the lifestyle of the village and Mahatma Gandhi himself. It is a book that is crafted for the most impact, building to that moment of truth.

Turk's illustrations add much to the book. Using mixed media, he offers oranges, purples, deep pinks and more that show the heat not only of the climate but of Arun's anger. Throughout, he also uses fabrics for the clothing, creating three-dimensional depth to the paintings. When Arun's emotions flare, the illustrations show that with tangles of black thread that all bring readers back to the image of Gandhi spinning neat white thread. The contrast is subtle and profound.

Personal and noteworthy, this is a picture book about Gandhi that is entirely unique and special. Appropriate for ages 5-8.

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### **Edward Sullivan says**

I had the opportunity to see Arun Gandhi several years ago and listen to him tell many wonderful intimate, personal stories about his grandfather that brought him vividly to life and made him very human. This remarkable book does the same. I particularly like the resentment the young Arun expresses at having to share his grandfather with so many people. It's emotionally honest and perfectly relatable. Beautiful mixed-media and collage illustrations by Evan Turk.

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### **Joan says**

This is a very unusual book. It is a perspective on someone who seems to be from history to me, never mind the 8-10 year olds who might read this book. However, this book removes the Mahatma from his pedestal to well, put him back on it. He was very approachable and open, even to a small boy. This boy, one of the authors of this book, was his grandson, Arun. Gandhi welcomed him and his sister with a big hug. Later, when the boy was feeling as though there was no way to live up to being a Gandhi, as angry as he felt, he went to his grandfather who did not scold him or be disappointed in him as the boy had expected. No, instead he dismissed his aide and gave all his attention to the unhappy kid's problem. He pointed out everyone gets

angry, it is how you make use of the anger that matters. He tells the boy a simple little story that even a child could see had a message for him. He accepted the message and has tried to live up to it his whole life.

The story is simple. The artwork isn't nearly as simple. When Arun is angry, you see him encircled by jagged thick black lines. At the end when he understands what his grandfather is trying to teach him, the lines go away and the thick black lines reform into trees and other positive shapes. In many ways, the art spoke to me first, which is highly unusual for me. I am a word person. Usually the pictures are an afterthought for me. In this book, however, the text cannot be separated easily from the artwork: one enhances the other. This would be a wonderful story to read on Martin Luther King Day. I know this would need to be book talked to convince kids to open it, but I think once opened, the kids will be immediately involved in the story. This is a valuable and unusual book in the library collection. I'm proud to have been the one to buy it and hope that it will help other children the way Arun was helped. This book is simple but profound.

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### **Holly says**

The grandson of Gandhi tells of his feelings of insecurity in trying to live up to his name and the great and peaceful Grandfather that is so well reected. The 12 year old deals with feelings of anger and learns that this human emotion is natural and normal and it is what we choose to do with these strong feelings (use the anger as a lamp to illuminate and make world a better place or as lightning to hurt others.)

This book sends a peaceful message of self acceptance and empowerment as well as biographical information that humanizes Gandhi.

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### **Karen Witzler says**

After a spate of reading so-so children's picture book biographies I was surprised and delighted to get to the bottom of my stack and find this. It is a book about anger but is also an introduction to the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. Arun, Gandhi's grandson, narrates a story about anger, and his shame about being angry, with a family story that takes the reader (child or adult) into the essence of Gandhi's teachings about non-violence. The book has memorable illustrations that express a wide range of emotion and also incorporate fiber art (spinning is included in the story!). Very engaging and the author's epilogue (a 9/11 survivor who first heard the now much older Arun relate this tale at a memorial service) adds a special jolt at the end. The lucky child who encounters this picture book will remember and understand historical and topical references to Gandhi - and possibly a new way of examining our universal human experience of anger.

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### **Barbara says**

Stunning mixed media illustrations formed with watercolor, paper collage, cotton fabric, cotton, yarn, gouache, pencil, tea and tin foil highlight the very personal story of Mahatma Gandhi's fifth grandson, Arun. When Arun and his family spend time with his grandfather in his service village, Sevagram, Arun longs to have one-on-one time with his ancestor. But Bapu is a very busy man, and just about everyone needs his attention. As he goes about his days, Arun becomes increasingly aware of his own shortcomings and his inability to live up to his grandfather's name and reputation. After an incident while playing soccer, Arun

seeks out his grandfather for advice. Gandhi responds by using electricity as a metaphor for anger. It can turn into lightning that can strike and cleave a tree in two or into a lamp that sheds light around it. Gandhi's words to his grandson are memorable: "Arun, we can all work to use our anger, instead of letting it use us" (unpaged). Thus, his message is clear: Anger can destroy us and those around us or it can be channeled so that others can see the error of their ways. I can think of no lesson more important to learn. Intriguing in its own right, the story of how the book came to be is described in the Authors' Notes.

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### **Kendra says**

Absolutely lovely. I'm sure many children, and adults, will see their own grandparents, as I did. That may be what I like best about this story-it is a story about a great man, but also about grandfathers and grandchildren everywhere.

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### **Kiffie says**

Arun, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi tells the story of how he came to live and learn with his grandfather. It's an overwhelming experience -- so much work to do, a language to learn, so many people surrounding the great teacher and demanding his time.

Arun confronts a situation one day on the playground that makes him very angry, and he talks with his grandfather, who teaches him that "anger is like electricity" -- it can split things in two, with catastrophic results -- or its energy can be channeled into illumination and positive change.

The lesson stays with young Arun thereafter.

Evan Turk's artwork is a wonder. Executed with watercolor, paper collage, fabric, yarn, gouache, pencil, tea, and tinfoil, it reflects Arun's varying emotions with striking accuracy.

A beautiful picture book with a powerful message.

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### **Betsy says**

Are you familiar with the concept of booktalking? It's a technique librarians developed to get people interested in books they might otherwise not pick up. The whole concept is to develop a kind of movie trailer style talk that gives a sense of the book's allure without giving up the plot. Typically booktalking is done for middle grade and young adult works of fiction, but enterprising souls have had a lot of luck with nonfiction as well. Now with an increased interest in nonfiction in our schools it's more important than ever to make the books we hawk sound particularly good. It doesn't hurt matters any when the books actually ARE good, though. Now let's say I'm standing in front of a room of second and third graders with a copy of *Grandfather Gandhi* in my hands. How do I sell this book to them? Easy peasy. Some books practically booktalk themselves. Here's how you sell it:

"Have any of you ever heard of Einstein? Yes? He's the guy that was a total genius. Now imagine you're his grandkid and you're not that smart. Okay now, have any of you heard of the Beatles. Yes? Well imagine

you're one of THEIR grandkids . . . and you're bad at music. Now here's the big one. Has anyone heard of Gandhi? He was a great guy. He managed to free his country and stop a lot of oppression and he did it without any violence at all. Martin Luther King Jr. got some of his ideas from Gandhi about nonviolence. All right, well, now let's image you are Gandhi, the most peaceful man IN THE WORLD's grandson. What if you get mad? Can you imagine what it would be like to have everyone whispering every time you got a little steamed about something?"

So there you go. Quick. Simple. To the point. I've met a fair number of picture book memoirs in my day, but *Grandfather Gandhi* may well be my favorite. Smartly written with an unusual hook and art that will just knock your socks off, this is one title you are going to have to see firsthand for yourself.

When young Arun and his family first arrive in his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi's village, he's mighty shy around his incredibly famous relative. Yet right away Grandfather is warm and welcoming to them, and when he praises Arun for walking the distance from the train station the boy swells with pride. Unfortunately, having Gandhi as your grandpa means having to share him with the 350 followers who also live in the village. Arun struggles with his lessons in Gujarati and the fact that there are no movie theaters around, but there are upsides to village life too. He's pretty good at soccer with the other kids, and occasionally Grandfather will take him for a walk just mano a mano. But then, one fateful day, Arun gets into a skirmish on the soccer field and his anger is overwhelming. Shamed that the grandson of Gandhi himself would react in anger he confesses to his Grandfather immediately, only to find the man isn't angry or disappointed in him in the least. Anger, Gandhi explains, is like lightning. You can use it to destroy or you can use it to light the world, like a lamp. Which will you choose?

I think it's fair to say that there have been a fair number of children's picture books from family and relatives of famous peacemakers. Most notable would be Martin Luther King Jr.'s clan, where it sometimes seems like every son, daughter, niece, and nephew has his or her own spin on their infinitely famous relative. Gandhi's a bit different. One wouldn't expect his own descendants to have much in the way of access to the American publishing industry, so biographies of his life in picture book form have concentrated occasionally on his life and occasionally on The Great Salt March. When I saw that this book was co-authored by his fifth grandson I expected the same sort of story. A kind of mix of "this guy was fantastic" with "and I knew him!". Instead, Hegedus and Gandhi have formulated a much more accessible narrative. Few children can relate to having a famous relative. But what about controlling their anger in the face of injustice? What's fascinating about this book is that the authors have taken a seemingly complex historical issue and put it into terms so child-friendly that a five-year-old could get the gist of it. That Gandhi's anger went on to become what spurned him to make lasting, important changes for his people is the key point of the book, but it takes a child's p.o.v. to drill the issue home.

Above and beyond all that, this is a book that advocates quite strongly for peace in all its myriad forms. Hardly surprising when you consider the subject matter but just the same I sometimes feel like "peace" is one of those difficult concepts without a proper picture book advocate. I went to a Quaker college where PAGS (Peace and Global Studies) was a popular major, and it was in making Quaker friends that I learned about picture books dedicated to the concepts embraced by that particular religion. Books like The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf, The Table Where Rich People Sit by Byrd Baylor, Thy Friend Obadiah by Brinton Turkle, and more. I'm sure that many in the Quaker household, or really any household that believes that peace is a practical and attainable solution, that will embrace *Grandfather Gandhi* as one of their own.

It's been a long time since I ran across a picture book with as long and lengthy a list of materials used in the illustrations as I have here. On the publication page it reads, "The illustrations for this book are rendered in watercolor, paper collage, cotton fabric, cotton, yarn, gouache, pencil, tea, and tin foil. Cotton hand spun on

an Indian book charkha by Eileen Hallman.” Phew! You might think that all that “stuff” might yield something clogged up or messy, but that would be doing Mr. Turk a disservice. Observing how well he gives his pictures depth and texture, life and vitality, you might be shocked to learn that *Grandfather Gandhi* is his first picture book. From the spinning wheel endpapers to montages of sheer explosive anger, Turk makes a point of not only adhering to some of the more metaphorical aspects of the text, but finding new and creative ways to bring them to visual life. To my mind, the materials an artist uses in his or her art must, in the case of mixed media, have a reason for their existence. If you’re going to use “cotton fabric, cotton” and “yarn” then there should be a reason. But Turk clearly did his homework prior to doing the art on this book. He doesn’t just slap the images together. He incorporates the fibers Gandhi knew so well and turns them into an essential aspect of the book’s art. The art doesn’t just support the text here. It weaves itself into the story, becoming impossible to separate from the story.

It’s Arun’s anger that proved to be the most visually interesting aspect, to me, in the book. Turk deftly contrasts the calm white thread produced by Gandhi’s spinning with the tangled black ones that surround and engulf his grandson whenever his feelings threaten to break free. The scene where he’s tempted to throw a rock at the boy who shoved him down is filled with thread, Arun’s magnificently clenched teeth, and black shadow figures that reach out across the field to the soccer net, dwarfing the three other little figures below. Later you can see the negative space found in cut paper turning from a representation of lightning into a thread of cotton in the hands of Gandhi illuminating a passage about making your anger useful. Yet Turk doesn’t just rely on clever techniques. He’s remarkably skilled at faces too. Arun’s expressions when he gets to see his grandfather alone or makes him proud are just filled with wide-eyed eager hope. And his frustrations and anger pulse off the page from his features alone.

Picture books for kids about dealing with their anger tend towards the fictional. There’s Molly Bang’s *When Sophie Gets Angry . . . Really Really Angry* and Robie H. Harris’s *The Day Leo Said I Hate You*. These are two of the good ones. Others veer towards the preachy and paternalistic. Imagine if you started using something like “Grandfather Gandhi” instead. More than just a memoir, the book offers a broad look at the benefits of channeling your anger. Better still, it’s a true story. Kids respect the true. They’ll also respect young Arun and his uncomfortable position. Fair play to author Bethany Hegedus for hearing him speak more than 13 years ago about this moment in his life, knowing that not only was there a picture book story to be had here, but a lesson kids today can grasp. As she says in her “Note from the Authors” at the end, “We world we live in needs to heal – to heal from the wars that are fought, to the bullying epidemic, to mass killings by lone gunmen, to poverty, to hunger, and to issues that contribute to internal anger being outwardly expressed in violent actions.” Gandhi’s message never grows old. Now we’ve a book that helps to continue his work for the youngest of readers. A necessary purchase then.

For ages 4-8.

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### **Dolly says**

This is a wonderful recollection of a period of time when Gandhi’s grandson, Arun, lived with his grandfather in an ashram in India.

It has the warmth of a fond memory and a small bit of wisdom from the great leader. I love that the book shows how Gandhi lived, truly one of the people. The mixed media illustrations are fascinating in their layers and complex layering of drawings and other items.

Overall, I thought that this book offers a wonderful introduction to children about Gandhi and we really enjoyed reading it together.

interesting quotes:

*"Have I not told you how anger is like electricity?"*

*I shook my head.*

*'It is. Anger can strike, like lightening, and split a living tree in two,' he said.*

...

*'Or it can be channeled, transformed. A switch can be flipped, and it can shed light like a lamp.'*

...

*'Then anger can illuminate. It can turn the darkness into light,' Grandfather said.*

*'That's what you do,' I said quietly, sure I couldn't do the same.*

*'Arun, we can all work to use our anger, instead of letting it use us.'"* (pp. 39-40)

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### **David Schaafsma says**

I've been reading into non-violence again, lately, (re: among other things, March, by Senator John Lewis and Nate Powell), there's a cool Peace exhibit at my library right now, and all those in my house are reading Peace books for kids, so this is a good one for getting into non-violence as an issue with kids. Who's Gandhi? What's his legacy? Who was influenced by him and how does he relate to current marches and movements? Will a famous guy with great, influential ideas have any effect on his family? What would it be like to be a grand-kid of Gandhi? Would he be a peacenik?

The book, which has sort of family information about Gandhi, is most notably about anger, I thought, and its place in Gandhi's life and ideas. It is (maybe especially) beautifully illustrated including fiber art (spinning!). Includes a cool co-author epilogue, someone who was a 9/11 survivor who had heard Arun tell this story at a memorial service) adds some weight to the story. What to do with anger? Kids need to figure out how to deal with it; all of us do.

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### **June says**

A powerful introduction to Mahatma Gandhi and to his grandson Arun. This covers a time when Arun goes to visit his Grandfather and is jealous of all the time other people take of his Grandfather. Arun doesn't feel like a Gandhi. How can he ever live up to the expectations for a grandson of Gandhi? When overcome with anger, he turns to his grandfather and learns a lesson about anger and electricity.

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