



Ludovic

Visiting Grandpa




It's summer and Ludovic is invited to spend a few days at Grandpa's farm. The little teddy bear is delighted to see his grandfather again but is saddened at the thought that Grandma is no longer with them. Grandpa must be feeling very sad because he has kept all her things in her sitting room. Ludovic is fascinated by this room filled with mementos and decides to go in. He sees Grandma's portrait and hugs it. He keeps returning and, little by little, grows accustomed to the loss of

his grandmother. Her portrait comes to life for him, and Ludovic hugs her and feels her warm embrace. He puts on her favourite music and they dance a last waltz.

This touching tale by Co Hoedeman is about the closeness and understanding between a grandfather and his little grandson who gradually learn to accept the death of a loved one. Daniel Lavoie's score heightens the emotional effect. **Ludovic: Visiting Grandpa** is part of a quartet of films entitled **Four Seasons in the Life of Ludovic**. This charming collection of stories, all told through puppet animation, will delight children between 3 and 6.



Director: Co Hoedeman
Producer: Jean-Jacques Leduc
12 minutes
Order number: C9101 007

 Closed captioned. A decoder is required.

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Printed in Canada




Ludovic
Visiting Grandpa



VHS

C9101 007



Four Seasons in the Life of

Ludovic

Visiting Grandpa



A National Film Board of Canada Production

Ludovic

Visiting Grandpa



Ask the children how they think this visit might have been different from Ludovic's earlier visits to his grandparents. (He is a little sad himself; he is more careful of his behaviour; he tries to give his grandpa more help and attention, etc.) Allow the children to speculate freely. There are no right or wrong answers.

2. Remind the children of the hatching of the goose eggs and the fun surrounding the goslings' arrival. Help the children to see that this is a life event, that the filmmaker was showing that all of life always moves forward in this way. Point out, for example, that the harvest of fruit and flowers in summer dwindles in the fall, and in winter, the earth seems to sleep. Then, with the arrival of spring, life bursts forth once more and the cycle of life begins again. Guide the children through a discussion of the life cycle of a plant or a bird or an insect, and allow them to draw inferences to their own lives or to human life in general.

3. Lead the children to see that Ludovic helped his grandfather by simply being with him and showing his love. In this way, the young bear helped his grandfather a great deal to recover from the loss of his wife.

RELATED NFB VIDEOS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Ludovic: A Snow Gift: It's winter and Ludovic must play indoors, so he invents magical games with a doll who miraculously comes to life. (14 min)

Ludovic: A Crocodile in My Garden: Spring blossoms and with it Ludovic's imagination, as he brings a menagerie of paper animals to life. (10 min)

Ludovic: Magic in the Air: It's autumn at the playground, and Ludovic discovers that the wonders of friendship can help him face even the fiercest bully! (12 min)

Charles and François: Beautifully animated meditation on aging and death, as an old man and his grandson face them together. Also directed by Co Hoedeman. (15 min)

Children Speak. Actual interviews with children 5 to 7 about life, death and everything in between, as set to award-winning animation. Refreshingly whimsical and surprisingly profound. (9 min)

Talespinners: A collection of eight videos that use vibrant animation to bring popular stories from around the world to the screen.

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD

Fox Song, Joseph Bruchac. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1993. After Gramma dies, Jaime's quiet walk in the woods tells her that her great-grandmother is still very near.

From Poppa, Anne Carter. Montreal: Lobster Press, 1999. A young girl is coming to terms with the departure of her beloved grandfather.

The Memory Horse, Troon Harrison. Toronto: Tundra Books, 1999. Sarah and her grandfather refurbish an old carousel horse, using symbols of her grandmother, the woman they love to remember.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before beginning the discussion, review the story line with the children, pointing out that Ludovic's grandma has died recently and that his grandpa is feeling lonely and sad.



Director:
Co Hoedeman

Producer:
Jean-Jacques Leduc

Script and Text:
Marie-Francine Hébert,
Co Hoedeman

Art Direction:
Denis Rondeau

Images:
Co Hoedeman

Editor:
José Heppell

Animation:
Lilian Kruij,
Co Hoedeman

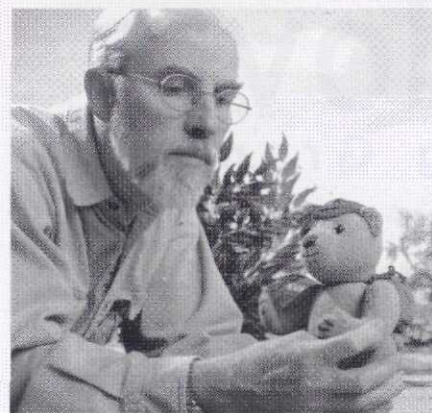
Music:
Daniel Lavoie

Sound:
Stéphane Cadotte,
Richard Charbonneau,
France Dubé,
Serge Boivin,
Jean Paul Vialard,
Goeffrey Mitchell,
Michael Delaney,
Patrick Viegas

Voice and Narration:
Sonja Ball

Order number
C9101 007

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



Co Hoedeman was born in Amsterdam and immigrated to Canada when he was 25. He soon joined the National Film Board, where he directed *Continental Drift* (1968), *Oddball* (1969) and *Matrioska* (1970). After studying puppet animation in Czechoslovakia, he returned to the NFB and made *Tchou-tchou* (1972). An interest in Arctic legends led him to direct four films in close collaboration with

Inuit artists. This was followed by a number of films with innovative animation techniques: *The Sand Castle* (1977), *The Treasure of the Grotocceans* (1980), *Masquerade* (1984), *Charles and François* (1987), *The Box* (1989), *The Sniffing Bear* (1992) and *The Garden of Ecos* (1997).

In 2002, he completed his four-part series *Four Seasons in the Life of Ludovic*. In addition to *Visiting Grandpa*, the other videos are entitled *The Snow Gift*, *A Crocodile in My Garden* and *Magic in the Air*.

Hoedeman's films reveal a close observation of human interaction and an intuitive understanding of the world of children. His work has garnered numerous international awards, including an Oscar® for *The Sand Castle*. In Bratislava, Slovak Republic, in 1999, Hoedeman received the prestigious Klingsor Prize for his body of work.

