

Themes

1. Death
2. Recovering from a loss
3. Remembering your loved ones
4. Coping with sadness
5. The importance of sharing the things you love with your family

Discussion Topics

Before Reading

1. Have you ever had a grandparent or someone close to you die?
2. What did you or someone else do to try to make you feel better?
3. What are some of the memories you have of that special person?
4. What are some of the special things this person did that make you happy just thinking about them?
5. What kinds of things could you create to help keep your loved one's memory alive?
6. Do you think that it's important to learn to do the things that your parents or grandparents love and cherish? Why? Why not?

After Reading

1. What did Grandpa teach Anna about living on the farm and about relationships?
2. Why didn't Anna want to plant the seeds Grandpa had given her before he died?
3. What eventually changed her mind?
4. How did the corn remind Anna of Grandpa?
5. How do you think Anna's corn sounded in the wind?



Activity Suggestions

1. Plant a corn seed in a glass filled with dirt. Watch its growth as it sprouts and finally matures enough to plant in the ground. Keep a journal and sketch the seed as it grows.
2. Plant a tree, bush, or flower in remembrance of someone you love.
3. Keep a photo of your loved one in your room and/or something that belonged to them.
4. Write your loved one a letter and tell them the things you love about them and what you love doing with them. Tuck it away in your journal or your drawer.
5. Keep your loved one's old traditions, like listening to the corn or the birds, taking walks in the woods, fishing, baking, or sewing, etc.
6. Make a bowl of popcorn for your family and while eating it, share stories about your loved ones.
7. Share or teach the activities that are meaningful to your family to others.
8. Using corn kernels or seed, make a collage or decorate a box or picture frame. You can even paint the corn seeds.