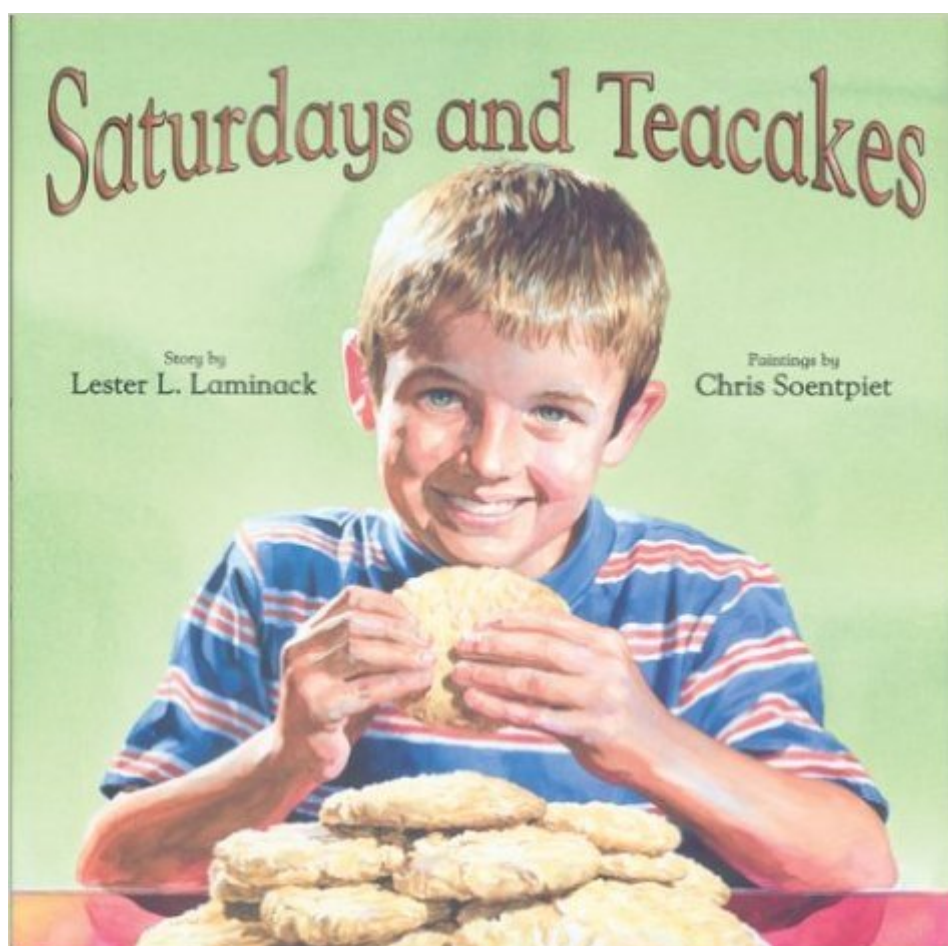


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# Saturdays And Teacakes



## Synopsis

So begins author Lester Laminack's poetic memory of the adult who made him feel incredibly special--his grandmother. Every Saturday, the narrator, a young boy, rides his bicycle up and down country roads past farms, a grave-yard, and a filling station, until he reaches his beloved Mammaw's house. She is waiting for him. No one else, just him. While she picks tomatoes, he pushes the lawnmower through the dew-we grass. Afterwards, he always helps her make teacakes from scratch, breaking the eggs and stirring the batter. But the best part, he remembers, is eating the hot, sweet cookies fresh from the oven. Children will understand the special love between the boy and his grandmother. Set in a small town in the Leave It to Beaver days of the mid-sixties, the story evokes a gentler and more innocent time and place. Young readers will almost hear the crunch of bicycle wheels on gravel and the crrick-craack-crick of a metal glider in Laminack's richly detailed prose. Award-winning illustrator Chris Soentpiet's images beautifully capture the relationship and the place, perfectly depicting the simplicity of an earlier time.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

School & Library Binding: 32 pages

Publisher: Peachtree Pub Ltd (J) (March 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 156145303X

ISBN-13: 978-1561453030

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10.5 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #14,157 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #46 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #220 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This book is so well-illustrated that the pictures literally pop out at you on each page. It's not hard to imagine yourself in the scenes of a small town filling station or in grandma's kitchen complete with a

red formica topped 1940s or 1950s dinette set and a vintage range. The artist admits that he was inspired by Norman Rockwell and his pictures show that influence. The story is a gentle, nostalgic memory of a boy's visits to his grandmother's house. This book would make a great gift for a grandchild who shares this love of visiting grandma's house. It would also be a pleasant trip down memory lane for any babyboomer generation member.

I used this book as a "jumping off" activity with my 7th grade language arts class. I read the book aloud to them and we discussed what they liked about the book. Then they wrote their own memoirs. It was a huge success!

A teacher at my son's school recommended this book. The story is about a boy making memories with his grandma. My 7 year old son and 3 1/2 year old daughter love the book. The illustrations are amazing. It is the type of story that can stand the test of time. It doesn't matter when it was written, making summer memories with your grandma (mom, dad, uncle, aunt, etc.) is a special thing. Love it!

A lovely story accompanied by absolutely beautiful illustrations! For those of us old to understand and cherish this kind of childhood, and for those lucky enough to still live in a place that hasn't been completely overtaken by everything electronic - this is bliss. I know every generation says . . . "when I was a kid." Well, it is true. Each generation seems to get less and less innocence and less and less of a childhood. I'm sorry, the times were better for everyone when it was like this.

This story, told in the voice of a nine- or ten-year-old boy, tells of his weekly trip to his grandmother's home, where she waits for him on her front porch with a cup of coffee. They enjoy a simple breakfast, he cuts her grass, and together they bake teacakes for him to eat. The rituals of time spent together, chores performed lovingly, and shared food sustain their relationship in a sweet and beautiful way. The story is rich in tactile sensations and concrete details, grounding the narrator in his world through physical experience: the bump of his bicycle tire over the hose at the Phillips 66 crossing reminds him to look both ways lest someone tell his mother. The sight of flour and sugar sifting through Mammaw's fingers and the smell of teacakes on the hot cookie sheet are almost tangible to the reader. Combine the excellent writing with Soentpiet's splendid watercolors depicting an impeccable 1950's home, and you have a visual and verbal feast. The book ends with a personal tribute from the author, letting us know the story is autobiographical. Included in the back cover is a

web link to a recipe for the teacakes. While the mood is somewhat idyllic, the story portrays a timeless relational scene where two family members care for one another in a stable, loving relationship. I especially appreciate the way the boy models cheerful manual work in service of someone else. A wonderful read.

This is a fantastic book. I have read it to hundreds of children before I retired as a school librarian. Even though it is out of their generation, all have loved, loved it. Now I am teaching literacy and storytelling to home school children and use this book to help children learn how to form a story.

Lovely Story. I happened across this book in a teacher's classroom and just fell in love with it -- what a wonderful peek into nostalgia...about a little boy riding his bike to grandma's house...just lovely...my kids are older but I love reading it to them anyway... it's just so sweet. The teacakes are awesome too!!

Unique and special. A glimpse into the intimacy of a child's traditional relationship with his grandmother. An example of everything good about the good old days. The illustrations are paintings and they are amazing. So special to share with modern children who may not have had a grandparent live so closely that they can ride a bicycle to visit them.

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