

Granny Doucedine has forgetting sickness

By Lily Couleurs

Today Gersty Grain rushes out of school because she's going to see Granny Gentleen. Her granny is not expecting her now because she can't remember. She has forgetting sickness.

But when Gersty Grain arrives Granny Gentleen recognises her and gives her a big smile, the smile Gersty has always known.

This is the smile Gersty Grain used see when Granny Gentleen came to take her home from playschool. Granny Gentleen would give Gersty a little present, a "school's out" present as she used say. She would choose a flower or a small pad to draw on with sheets of all different colours.

Then they would go to the fruit and vegetable shop together because Gersty Grain liked to eat a green pepper for her afternoon snack, not something every little girl likes. But Granny Gentleen used say that Gersty Grain was an exceptional and cherished girl.

Today, it is Gersty Grain who is bringing Granny Gentleen a strawberry pie and a coffee éclair because they are her favourite cakes.

Granny Gentleen would like to eat the pie but she is all flustered when Gersty Grain hands her a paper napkin to put on. So Gersty takes it back and helps her put it on because she knows that people who have forgetting sickness forget the directions the clothes have to take to be put on.

While Granny Gentleen is eating her pie, Gersty Grain remembers her granny before she became ill. She spent most of her time reading in bed.

You might think she wasn't very useful like a doctor or a lawyer might be! Well you'd be wrong. Granny Gentleen could do something very few others could do. She knew how **to listen**. People would come visit Granny Gentleen, pour out their troubles and leave with the strength to try and overcome them. It's like when you have problems and you go to a listener-doctor, when you lie down on a couch and talk but in this case it was Granny Gentleen who lied down and you didn't have to pay anything.

Her children and grand-children knew she was always there to listen to them, to tell a story, have them recite their poetry and encourage them to succeed. She could always pick out what was beautiful in a drawing or what was funny in a story you read to her after writing it. In a word, she had a magic gift: **she helped people exist**.

While Gersty was lost in her thoughts, the postman delivered a letter that had to be signed for. Since Granny Gentleen could only remember her first name Gersty Grain wrote her surname alongside her first name.

Yesterday, a doctor specialised in the forgetting sickness came to try and see how many things she had forgotten. Granny Gentleen had smiled gently and said to him: "look for the answers in your own head that still remembers. That would be much more efficient" and she stopped talking.

Granny Gentleen likes to go out but if she goes by herself she can't remember the way home and gets lost. So Gersty Grain takes her out for walks. On the way Granny Gentleen asks her what time is shown on the clock because she sees a small and a big hand but can't remember which hand gives the hours and which gives the minutes.

Gersty knows that someday Granny Gentleen will not recognise her any more but she will keep visiting her because when you love someone you don't stop giving her your hand, the hand of generations.