

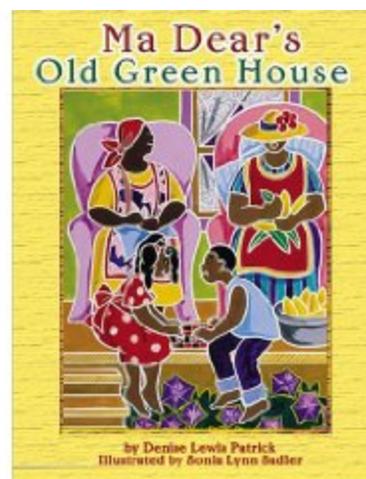
Teacher's Guide

Ma Dear's Old Green House

Written by Denise Lewis Patrick

Illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler

Published by Just Us Books



Book Description

All of us have special places in our childhood memories. They are places we want to visit again and again because they make us feel good. Ma Dear's old green house is such a place for author Denise Lewis Patrick. In this charming book, Ms. Patrick shares the warmth, comfort and joy she felt as a child whenever she visited her grandmother's old green house.

Target ages: 4-8

Themes: family, summer, childhood, memories

Pre-Reading Questions

Look at the cover. What do you think the story is about?

Who do you think Ma Dear is? Is Ma Dear a nick name? If so, what do you think it stands for? Can you think of other names or terms for the "Ma Dear"?

Where do you think this story takes place?

Discussion Questions

What is this book about?

Who is telling the story? How do you know?

What were some of the main character's favorite memories about the old green house?
What did the main character like to do at the old green house?

Where do you think the old green house is located? Name specific areas, states or cities.

The characters in the story watched one black and white t.v. What kind of tv do you have in your house? Do you have your own tv? Did tv seem very important to the characters in the story? Is tv important to you?

What is your favorite place and why? What are some of your favorite memories there?

Define the following words/phrases:

quiet
noise
wonder
mystery
whisper
dream

WRITING/LANGUAGE ARTS

A. *Ma Dear's Old Green House* is about one of the author's favorite places. Write a story or poem that takes in your favorite place.

B. In the book the author wrote "Lot of things change between summers." Think about something that changed for you one summer. Write about what changed, why it changed and how it made you feel.

C. This book was inspired by things that happened to the author in real life. What kind of story could you write based on your life? Who would be the main characters? What would you name the book? What would be the moral of the story?

ART

A. The illustrator used a special kind of style called scratch board to create the illustrations for this book. Is there a way you can duplicate the style of art using materials you have in class or at home? (hint for teachers: students can try paper cuts out and drawing white outlines around illustrations.). Try to recreate one of the illustrations in the book using that style.

B. In *Ma Dear's Old Green House*, we learn the fridge was in the dinning room and the kids took baths in the kitchen. Is there anything that's out of place in your house or classroom? Draw a picture of that object in that out of place location. If nothing's out of place in your house or classroom, use your imagination to draw a scene where there's one thing that's out of place. Trade pictures with classmates and take turns trying to find the out of place object in their illustration.

MATH

Count the number of hours a week you spend watching tv? How many hours does that average a day? Make a list of things you can do instead of watching tv.

HISTORY

Use the Internet to find out when color televisions were invented. Find someone who had a black and white tv and interview that person to find out what life was like when he or she was growing up.

GEOGRAPHY

In the book there was a China cabinet that had cups that were from Japan. Locate both countries on a map or globe. Learn three fun facts about each country.

About the Author

Denise Lewis Patrick comes from a storytelling family. Her father wrote poetry, and she followed in his footsteps, penning her first writings at eight years old. A native of Natchitoches, Louisiana, she earned a B.A. in Journalism from Northwestern State University, then moved to New York City to begin her professional writing career. She has since written over 25 books for children including *Red Dancing Shoes* and *Martin's Friendship Lesson*. Patrick took inspiration for her most recent book, *Ma Dear's Old Green House* from childhood summers filled with cousins and fun at her grandmother's house in Louisiana. She now lives in New Jersey with her husband and their four sons in a green house of her own.

About the Illustrator

Sonia Lynn Sadler studied fine arts, illustration and crafts at Maryland Institute College of Art and went on to graduate from Parsons School of Design in New York City. After a successful career in design working for such companies as Anne Klein and Liz Claiborne, Sonia launched www.SoniaLynSadlerArts.com where she markets her artwork and accessories. Her unique scratchboard and acrylic paintings are widely exhibited in galleries across the country. *Ma Dear's Old Green House* is her first trade picture book for children



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