

Moral Education through Grandma's Bag of stories by Sudha Murty

Rekha Prakash Phalke,

Submitted: 10- Mar -2026 Revised: 18-Mar-2026 Accepted: 15-Apr2026 Published: 30-Apr-2026

Manuscript ID:

IJEWLPSIR-2026-030217



Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0):

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work no commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.20919046

DOI Link:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20919046>

Volume: 3

Issue:2

Month: April 2026

E-ISSN: 3065-7873

(Asst. Prof.) PhD Scholar, Shivaji
University, Kolhapur.
Email: manerekha730@gmail.com

How to cite this article:

Phalke, R. P. (2026). Moral Education through Grandma's Bag of stories by Sudha Murty. *International Journal of English and World Languages & Literature Paradigm Shift in International Research*, 3(2), 60–62.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20919046>

Address for correspondence:

Rekha Prakash Phalke,
(Asst. Prof.) PhD Scholar, Shivaji
University, Kolhapur.
Email: manerekha730@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper explores the importance of Ajji in a family (grandmother) who narrates stories to her grandchildren in vacation. Storytelling has been an important part of our culture. Moral values passed from one generation to another generation. This paper explores the importance of the storytelling and its valuable part in children's life. Sudha Murty's "Grandma's Bag of stories" is a collection of traditional Indian folktales. Each tale conveying a valuable moral lesson that is useful in real life situation.

Keywords: Moral value, Indian culture, education, folktales.

Introduction

"In every conceivable manner, the family is a link to our past, and a bridge to our future"

A bridge or link between past and future is grandparents who build connectivity between families. Family works like a compass that shows a direction for life where to go and how to achieve success. Traditional folktales have been passed through generations to generations. They teach us moral lessons and importance of our culture.

Sudha Murty is a renowned Indian author, social worker who is owner of Infosys. She is a well-established writer in Kannada and English literature. Murty's Books translated in many Indian languages. Her famous books are "Wise and Otherwise", "Grandma's bag of stories", "How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and other Stories"- semi autobiographical short stories, "The Magic Drum and other Favorite Stories" and so many fictions and non-fiction works published. Sudha Murty's specialists easily portray social problems through simple narrative technique and convey human values, morals and importance of culture. This paper studies the short stories and how stories easily connect to the little heart of children.

Sudha Murty's Grandma's Bag of Stories published in 2015. These short stories convey several messages. Book's last cover pages quote "When Grandma opens her bag of stories, everyone gathers around" Let us all gather and dive up in stories. Ajji have two types of bags likewise, bag of stories and bag of homely medicine. Ajji have a solution of every problem related to illness also.

Importance of Indian culture: Joint family is the base of Indian tradition. They promote responsibilities for each other and care of every family member. Old parents conveying values in life to family members. Old family members try to bond all family members tightly and provide emotional support. In a joint family grandparent passing old folktales and histories of villages to grandchildren through story telling. So, they learn their history through stories and kept respect to tradition. In Author's note, author mentions the value of grandparents 'I hope, with these stories, children and parents will understand the unique relationship between three generations and will continue to create bonds of love with one another and older generations in their families.'¹ Writer was aware of importance of stories and she easily conveys their lessons and importance of Indian culture through stories. Culture provides learning opportunities for kids from grandparents and other family members.

Portrayal of Grandmother: Short stories title grandma's bag, obviously central character in stories is grandma. Book cover page is lovely. In cover page grandma with their grandchildren excitedly listening to stories from grandma. Writer's portrayal of the grandma is heartwarming and iconic. Writer's portrayal that she is kind, warm-hearted and loving figure who entertains their grandchildren in holidays. The grandma's stories are not just entertaining but also teach importance of values through stories. In Author's note "My grandmother, Krishnaa, popularly known as Krishtakka, was very bright and affectionate. She was also a great storyteller. She never gave us any sermons but taught the values of life through her stories"² Grandma has a full bag of different stories. She taught to her grandparents through stories. She has ability to connect with children and fulfill their curiosity. Grandma preserved her cultural and traditions through her stories. Grandma is much educated but she learned from life experiences and that reflects in her stories. Finally, while their mothers went off to chat and rest, the children gathered around their grandmother for the best part of the holidays-listening to her wonderful stories, particularly in the late afternoon.³ Children are eagerly waiting for grandma

When mother and grandmother finished their chatting, then children gathered around grandma for the enjoying best part of holidays. Children are fighting for sitting nearest to Ajji. Children asked many questions to Ajji. Ajji have answers of each question. She can change stories pattern according to children demands. Children always demands stories but Ajji's rule one day, one story. According to research paper, "*Sudha Murty's Grandma's Bag of stories helps us revisit the halcyon days when summer vacation was the most delicious time of the year, one always looked forward to for meeting, playing and enjoying with kith and kin.*"⁴ Really when any readers can read short stories book of Murty, they dive into childhood memories.

Morals through stories: In the *Kavery and the Thief* story children learned morals like forgiveness and kindness can change the people. If you have good deeds can bring positive change in surrounding. The story highlights kindness and compassion transforming a thief. "*Sometimes with a bit of luck and lots of pluck, people can change any situation in which they find themselves!*"⁵ Kavery continued to work hard and change her situation with the luck and sharp wit. *The Enchanted Scorpions* highlights the respect the nature. The story depicts the connectivity between nature and all living beings. The story conveys the lesson about the importance of behaving with all living beings with kindness. *The House Trap* story conveys important morals like teamwork and support. The story highlights the importance of careful about surroundings. *A Treasure for Ramu* highlights the morals of honest. Honest is the best policy. Ajji conveyed morals through stories and children grasp in their incoming social life. In this story Ramu's honesty leads to a wonderful situation. The story points out how good deeds can bring worthy rewards. With the help of the story Ajji beautifully narrates story of goddess of wealth. Ajji told life experiences to grandchildren. Now Ajji said, '*Do not always go by what you read in books. Learn to use your life's experiences, read between the lines*'⁶. She conveyed message to children not only book reads but also read between the meaning of lines. Likewise, Anita Desai short stories are a treasure of morals. Anita Desai's stories depicts themes of human relationships, identity and human condition. There are many morals for children. There are important to implementation in early stage of children so that they can carry whole life. Some important morals are honesty, kindness, respect, sharing, responsibility, gratitude, helping hand, hard work, courage and teamwork. Murthy tried to convey morals through stories. In Author's note she mentioned that *I made some changes when I wrote the stories in this book but mostly it is a true reflection of my childhood.*⁷ In her vacation writer enjoying her ajji's story telling and, in this book, she draws real experience of her ajji. Everyone has such type of ajji who fulfill enjoy of our summer vacation. Those children are lucky who have such type of grandma. *It is insightful book which tries to comprehend the unique relationship between three generations and holds the perdurable virtue of love as an unrelenting bond of togetherness.*⁸ It is insightful book which create bond between grandparents and grandsons. It is a bond of love, caring, respect and empathy. Every child needs such type of bond with grandparents. Grandma concludes every type of folktales which related to animal, person and also western character's story also. In *The Horse Trap* story about Geroge who lived in England. Geroge was a great thinker and scholar. His knowledge helped that time government. In this story, ajji convey great message or Science Darwin law of survival. "*Truly, if man did not innovative and experiment, our species would have died out – just like Geroge had predicted!*"⁹ Ajji was really great. She can easily teach science law with story that children never forget survival rule of life.

Conclusion

This paper concludes that Sudha Murty revives folktales, turning narratives into educational purpose to teach morals easy way. Children never learned by teaching. They learned by real experiences or by stories. They easily remembered moral values and well known about importance of moral values. Ajji is a such good teacher who teach us all subjects through stories. Writer can include story of thinker, scientist, farmer, poor landlady, magician, and king also. Writer can cover all area in short stories. Writer successfully convey morals to children in stories form.

Acknowledgment

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who supported me in the completion of this study on Moral Education through Grandma's Bag of Stories by Sudha Murty.

I am deeply indebted to my mentor/guide for their invaluable guidance, insightful suggestions, and continuous encouragement throughout this work. Their support helped me better understand the moral values, ethical lessons, and cultural insights presented in Grandma's Bag of Stories.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to my teachers and the department for providing the academic environment and resources necessary for this research. Their encouragement played a vital role in shaping my perspective on children's literature and value-based education.

I am grateful to my friends and peers for their support, meaningful discussions, and motivation during the course of this study. Their ideas enriched my work and made the process more engaging.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family for their unwavering support, patience, and belief in me. Their encouragement has been a constant source of strength.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper

Work Cited

1. Murty, Sudha. *Grandma's Bag of Stories*. Puffin, 2012. Author's note
2. Murty, Sudha. *Grandma's Bag of Stories*. Puffin, 2012. Author's note
3. Murty, Sudha. *Grandma's Bag of Stories*. Puffin, 2012. P. 2
4. Hajira Banu, A. "Instilling values through Short stories with Special Reference to Sudha Murty's *Grandma's Bag of Stories*." *Shanlax International Journal of English*, vol. 12, no.3, 2024, pp.43
5. Murty, Sudha. *Grandma's Bag of Stories*. Puffin, 2012.p.25
6. Ibid, p.59
7. Murty, Sudha. *Grandma's Bag of Stories*. Puffin, 2012. Author's note
8. Kher, Ramita. *Burgeoning Ethically: A study of Sudha Murty's Grandma's Bag of Stories*. *The achievers Journal*, vol. 7, issue I, ISSN (ONLINE): 2395-0897, p.23.
9. Murty, Sudha. *Grandma's Bag of Stories*. Puffin, 2012.p. 51.
10. www.wikipedia.org