

In Grandfather's Day

KEY VOCABULARY

- **celebrate** (verb) To *celebrate* is to do something fun or special.
- **demonstrating** (verb) To *demonstrate* is to show clearly.
- **chuckled** (verb) To *chuckle* is to laugh quietly.
- **simmered** (verb) To *simmer* is to boil gently.
- **aroma** (noun) An *aroma* is the smell of something.
- **unforgettable** (adjective) *Unforgettable* means very easy to remember.

In Grandfather's Day

Sharr and her brother Kaze were visiting Grandfather to **celebrate** his 75th birthday. Grandfather was born way back in the year 2000, and the two grandchildren always liked to hear about life in the olden days, when he was a boy.

"What was it like before there were Mindcaps?" Kaze asked.

"We typed on a keyboard," Grandfather replied, wiggling his fingers over an imaginary keyboard.

"Or we tapped a touchscreen," he added, **demonstrating** with two fingers.

"That must have been so slow," said Sharr.

"We didn't have thought commands back then," said Grandfather as he placed a Mindcap on his head and glanced at the Wallscreen. The wall lit up with a photograph taken of Grandfather as a boy. "I'm standing in front of our family's car," Grandfather explained.

"Was it fun to drive such a big car?" asked Kaze.



Grandfather **chuckled**. "I was only ten years old, so I couldn't drive a car. Drivers needed special training because driving was dangerous. Today, accidents don't happen. A child can sit in a Plugger, give a thought command, and off it scoots. Nobody dreamed of such a thing back in the early 2000s."

Grandfather blinked at the Wallscreen, and a new image appeared, this one showing seven-year-old Grandfather and his mother in the kitchen of their house.

"What is Great-Grandmother doing?" asked Sharr.

"She is cooking a pot of stew on the stove," said Grandfather. "It took hours."

Sharr said, "I'm glad we have Menu-Mems, because who wants to wait hours to eat? Just give a thought command to the slot, and out comes the meal."

Grandfather was smiling as he stared at the picture. "I remember it like it was yesterday," he said dreamily. "I helped peel potatoes while Mom chopped up carrots. The kitchen filled with spicy warmth as the stew **simmered** in the pot." Grandfather breathed in deeply, as if sniffing a wonderful **aroma**.



Kaze and Sharr studied the picture. Then Kaze said, "I wonder what a home-cooked meal tastes like." Sharr nodded in agreement.

"It is **unforgettable**," said Grandfather with a sigh.

Name 3 examples of technology available to Sharr and Kaze that were not invented when Grandfather was a boy.

Explain how Mindcaps and Pluggers changed people's lives.

How might you use thought commands in your life?

Compare and contrast grandfather's childhood to that of Sharr and Kaze.

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Do you agree with Sharr that Menu-Mems are a good thing? Why or why not?

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How do you think life will be different when you are 75 years old?

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