

Mr. George Baker by Amy Hest with illustrations by Jon J. Muth

George and Harry are neighbors with a common destination. They wait patiently on the steps together for the school bus to take them to school to learn to read. They have matching backpacks and share chocolate candy in “twisty silver wrappers” as they wait “on the porch and chew.” George is an African American Jazz drummer and “He’s learning to read with the grownups in room 7.” The lyrical language and soft toned water colors capture the intergenerational companionship that is the cornerstone of this subtle, comfortable book.

Themes: Intergenerational relationship
Learning to Read
Acceptance of difference
Friendship

About the Author: Candlewick Press – Authors and Illustrators
www.candlewick.com/authill.asp

Activity: 1) After reading MR. GEORGE BAKER, write invitations to grandparents for a read-in picnic with students. You can schedule this during grandparent’s week in September. Share picnic foods and books. It’s a winning combination.

2) Collect “Grandparent books” and share one every day during Grandparents week in September.