

• Robert Kimmel Smith •

Author of *Chocolate Fever*

The War with Grandpa





PETER STOKES'S TRUE AND REAL STORY

This is the true and real story of what happened when Grandpa came to live with us and took my room and how I went to war with him and him with me and what happened after that.

I am typing it out on paper without lines on my dad's typewriter because Mrs. Klein, she's my 5th grade English teacher, said that we should write a story about something important that happened to us and to tell it "true and real" and put in words that people said if we can remember and to put quote marks around them and everything.

She also said to keep the sentences short. Looking back on how I began, I can see I'm doing terrible already. The first two sentences took up almost $\frac{1}{2}$ the page.

My little sister, Jennifer, just came in and asked me what I'm doing and I told her. She

told me to put Pac-Man in my story and maybe Wonder Woman she watches reruns of every afternoon on Channel 6. "No," I said.

"Why not?"

"Because it is a story about Grandpa and me, silly. Not some made-up thing like on TV."

"Could it have a horse in it?" she asked.

Jennifer loves horses a lot. She cuts pictures of them out of magazines and tacks them up on the wall in her room. "No horses."

"A magic fairy?"

"No!"

"I bet it's going to be a stupid story," she said.

Jennifer was wearing a Pac-Man cap, her Superman T-shirt, a jeans belt that said JEANS on it, and sneakers that said LEFT and RIGHT on the toes. She looked like a walking billboard.

"It is going to be a great story," I said.

"How does it begin?"

"I don't know. That's what I was trying to remember when you came marching in."

"I think it should begin with me," Jenny said, "because I found out Grandpa was coming to live here before you even knew about it."

"Good idea," I said.

“And put in the story that I am very beautiful with long blond hair and lovely blue eyes.”

“I just did.”

“Now you’ll have a good story,” she said.

Peter is thrilled that Grandpa is coming to live with his family. That is, until Grandpa moves right into Peter's room, forcing him upstairs.

Peter loves his grandpa but wants his room back. He has no choice but to declare war! With the help of his friends, Peter devises outrageous plans to make Grandpa surrender the room. But Grandpa is tougher than he looks. Rather than give in, Grandpa plans to get even.

They used to be such great pals. Has their war gone too far?

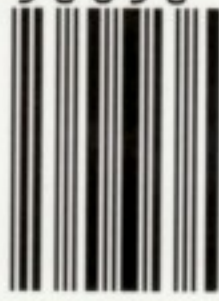
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