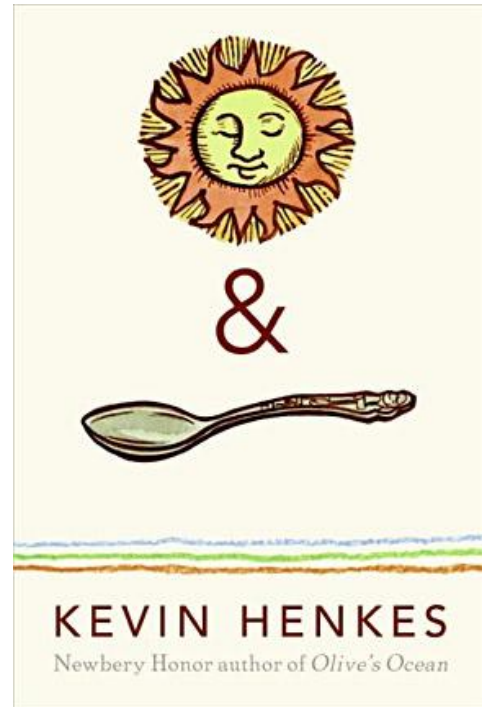


Sun & Spoon by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow, 1997)

10 year old Spoon Gilmore is consumed with one worry – that he will forget his beloved, recently deceased grandmother. He decides to find some object he can hold close so her memory will live on. The trouble begins when Spoon steals a special memento.

Discussion Questions

1. After Gran dies, Spoon decides not to go to visit his other Grandmother. His older brother Charlie calls him a baby. But the only place Spoon wanted to be was home. Why do you think Spoon just want to stay home?
2. P.16 Spoon notices that his father flips his sister Joanie, the way he used to flip Spoon. But his father doesn't flip him anymore and this got Spoon thinking about the last flip – did he know it was going to be the last flip. And this leads him to thinking about Gram – and her last words. Why is spoon worried about Gran's last words?
3. P. 29 Do you remember the story of how Spoon got his name? When people ask about his name he sometimes lies and tells them Spoon is a nickname for Spooner an old family name on his mother's side. Why do you think he lies?
4. P.32 Everyone loves Spoon's younger sister Joanie. His Grandfather says "you lighten my heart." If you had a charm alarm, it would be going off ever ten seconds and the whole town would hear it." "What about her jerk alert?" Spoon says under his breath. "It never stops ringing." What do you think Spoon meant by this?
5. Pa has changed as well since Gran's death. Spoons mother says "I just don't want him to dwindle." What do you think she means by this?
6. Spoon finally finds the thing of Gram's that he had been look for to remind him of her – her deck of cards with the sun faces. P.49 "A feeling of complete certainty came over him. He knew, just knew, that the deck of cards was precisely what he had been searching for." Why was he so certain?
7. When Spoon starts his secret notebook where he is going to put 52 things about Gram to match the 52 cards in a deck, he starts thinking about the casket and the hole in the ground. "But he pushes these thoughts aside – he didn't want to put thoughts like this in his notebook." Why didn't he?



8. P.92 Spoon overhears his Grandfather confessing to his parents that he couldn't find Grams pack of cards? How does this make Spoon feel?
9. P. 104 After Spoon returns the cards, he doesn't tell his Grandfather. And he feels both good and bad. Why does he have conflicting feelings?
10. Why does Spoon confess that he took the cards? Do you think his Grandfather knew he had taken them?
11. P.128 after his Grandfather shows Spoon the mitten tracing with the words "M is always for Martha," Spoon looks at his own palm and sees an M. Why does make him feel his search is over?
12. Why is the book called *Sun & Spoon*?

Caroline Ward,
Coordinator, Youth Services
The Ferguson Library