

The old man and his grandson, a short fairy story by the Grimm Brothers

1. Discuss the quotes and questions below with a partner. Remember to support your answers:

- Youth is wasted on the young. *George Bernard Shaw*
- Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many. *Unknown*
- What kind of support should children give their ageing parents?
- How are older people viewed in your country?
- What are some of the benefits of getting older?

2. Listen to the first part of the story and think of three possible endings. Then listen to the rest of the story and check if your predictions were correct.

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- _____
- _____

3. Put the sentences below in the correct order. Then listen again and check. The first line is in bold to help you get started.

- ___ **What are you doing there?** asked the father.
- ___ And he used to look towards the table with his eyes full of tears.
- ___ and it fell to the ground and broke.
- ___ and not even enough of it.
- ___ and when he sat at table he could hardly hold the spoon, and spilt the broth upon the table-cloth
- ___ answered the child, for father and mother to eat out of when I am big.
- ___ began to gather together some bits of wood upon the ground.
- ___ but he said nothing and only sighed.
- ___ His son and his son's wife were disgusted at this,
- ___ I am making a little trough
- ___ Once, too, his trembling hands could not hold the bowl,
- ___ or let it run out of his mouth.
- ___ so the old grandfather at last had to sit in the corner behind the stove, and they gave him his food in an earthenware bowl,
- ___ The man and his wife looked at each other for a while, and presently began to cry.
- ___ The young wife scolded him,
- ___ Then they bought him a wooden bowl for a few half-pence, out of which he had to eat.
- ___ then they took the old grandfather to the table, and henceforth always let him eat with them, and likewise said nothing if he did spill a little of anything.
- ___ **There was once a very old man, whose eyes had become dim, his ears dull of hearing, his knees trembled,**
- ___ They were once sitting thus when the little grandson of four years old