

**Title:** Tales by my grandpa

**Author:** Margaret Olusola Abimbola (PhD)

**Reviewer:** Susanna Abimbola

Dr Margaret Olusola Abimbola is a University of Ibadan trained Librarian with a specialty in bibliotherapy and aliteracy. She is an ardent campaigner of reading and how tremendously it can transform the lives of people, especially that of young people. She constantly preaches the ‘readers are leaders’ refrain. Personally, I am a great beneficiary of her zest for reading as it has shaped me into the writer that I am today. The grandpa standing on the front cover of ‘Tales by my Grandpa’ with a walking stick which tells of his age and a smile which tells of his amazing, carefree personality, is no doubt a debut. This significant and beautiful illustration is not only on the front cover, it is replete throughout out the book. From grandpa to the grandchildren—Adeoluwa and Ifeoluwa, every character is adequately illustrated and this illustration goes a long way to make the story as real as possible to the young readers.

Complementing the beautifully done illustrations is the simple yet rich language in which the story was told. The words used in the book were conversational and often used in day-to-day speech. The diction of the story was also in line with the appropriate rules of grammar. New words were also included in the story because what’s a storybook without learning new words? These words were also adequately described on the last page of the storybook.

Additionally, the storybook has a very rich content and this is no flattery at all. From the funny but lesson-laden story of Asake and Aduke, to that of the son of a rich farmer, it adequately passes lessons to children through the witty, wise and engaging tales of grandpa. It chronicles in details the love grandparents and grandchildren share. Additionally, the book emphasises the girl-child empowerment and the non-gender nature of chores. Grandma does not do the cooking alone, grandpa also cooks. Ifeoluwa is told she can become a farmer and consequently, stereotypes were broken.

‘Tales by my Grandpa’ is a must-read for every child, parent, teacher, school owner and even Sunday school teachers.

**Susanna Abimbola (Law student)**