



The car pulled into the funeral home parking lot.

*"Look! There's Grandpa getting out of his car,"* exclaimed Charlie.

The car turned into the funeral home parking lot and came to a stop. The kids scrambled out and ran to Grandpa. There were no shiny quarters this time. The kids looked up and saw that Grandpa had been crying.

The family walked into the funeral home and headed down the hall towards the viewing room. The kids were just about to enter when Aunt Lulie said, *"Wait a minute, have either of you ever seen a dead person before?"* Both kids turned to her and shook their heads. *"Well, then, let me tell you*

*a couple things before you go in. First, it will look like Grandma Jennie is asleep. She will be in the light blue casket wearing her favorite, blue dress. But she will not be breathing or moving at all and her skin will look pale. You might even think, 'That isn't my grandma.'"*

Aunt Lulie continued, *"When I first see her, I'm going to put my hands on hers and talk to her a little while. Her hands will feel cold like the rest of her body. And when I'm ready to leave, I will give her a kiss good-bye. You can do this, if you wish — or you can just stand next to me."*

Elizabeth and Charlie looked at one another with wide eyes and relief, knowing that Aunt Lulie was there to help them.



At dinner that evening, Aunt Lulie began telling stories about Grandma and what she did on the last family fishing trip. Mom began to cry again. Charlie whispered to Elizabeth, *"I wish they wouldn't talk about Grandma Jennie so much. They're making Mom cry even more."*

As Aunt Lulie continued her story, Uncle Mert, who had overheard Charlie's remark, leaned over and said, *"I know that talking about Grandma is hard; but it helps us as a family to remember the happy and sad times by talking about them. If we keep our feelings and memories inside, it makes her death even harder to cope with."*

Aunt Lulie continued, *"Remember the time when we were fishing and Grandma fell into the lake? And when we got her out she had a fish in her blouse?"*

Everyone laughed, even Mom did a little bit.