



## ***The Wrong Bus***

Lois Peterson

illustrated by Amy Meissner

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### **About the Book**

Jack misses his Grandpa Nod who used to be a bus driver. One day when he gets on the wrong bus, Jack discovers Grandpa Nod in the driving seat, taking Jack to all the places his mom would not let him go when his grandpa was dying—the hospital, funeral home and cemetery. By the end of the ride, Jack has had the chance to say goodbye and has received a gift that will always help him find his way home.

### **About the Author**

*The Wrong Bus* is **Lois Peterson's** sixth book for Orca Book Publishers. Her first two, *Meeting Miss 405* and *The Ballad of Knuckles McGraw*, were both nominated for Silver Birch Express Awards, and *Meeting Miss 405* won the BC Chocolate Lily Award for chapter books in 2010. *The Ballad of Knuckles McGraw* and *Silver Rain* are nominated for the 2012 Chocolate Lily Award.

Lois has ridden buses in England, New York, Paris, Mexico, Egypt and Vancouver. But the best rides were the ones her own bus conductor granddad took her on when she was growing up in Cornwall, England.

### **About the Writing**

Sometimes Lois knows how a story is going to turn out when she starts it. Sometimes she only knows the beginning, and goes along for the ride to see what will happen in the end. She first came up with the title of *The Wrong Bus*, then decided that a boy called Jack was waiting for a bus. She followed the wrong bus through town as it took Jack to places he needed to go in order to say goodbye to his grandpa. The biggest surprise—their visit to the water park! Lois did not need a ticket, but just let her imagination drive the story.

**Teaching Ideas—Curriculum Connections*****Prereading Idea***

Jack misses his Grandpa who he used to spend a lot of time with. Who in the students' lives—apart from moms, dads or siblings—takes them on outings to favorite places or shares a skill or activity with them? What do they most enjoy about spending time together?

***Classroom Discussion Questions***

1. Jack's mom would not let him see his grandfather at the hospital, funeral parlor or cemetery. Why do you think that was?
2. Jack is too young to visit his grandpa when he is sick and dying, and too old for the water park. Make a list of all the places you'd like to visit if you were old enough. How does it feel to have to wait to do some things until you're older?
3. Katy likes to be helpful by telling people about Jack's grandpa. How do you think that makes Jack feel?
4. Some people believe ghosts come back to deal with unfinished business. What did Grandpa Nod do for Jack by taking him on one last bus ride?

***Suggested Activities***

- Draw a map of the neighborhood around your school, showing familiar and favorite places.
- If you ride buses, ask a parent to help you find the schedule for the routes you ride most often. (Hint—most bus companies post their schedules on their websites.)
- Jack had never been to a hospital, funeral home or cemetery. Most people think of these as sad places. Even if you've never been to one, draw a picture of what you think you might find there.
- Grandparents can be very important in many kids' lives. Take a poll of the class to find out whose grandparents live close by, their real names and what name their grandchildren call them. (Grandpa, Grandma, Granny, Papa, Nonna...)
- Jack's grandpa likes to finish up whatever is left over from Jack's school lunch. Create a week's menu of school lunches that you would share with a grandparent, parent or other relative you are close to.
- Grandpa Nod calls Jack by candy names. Collect the names of students' favorite candy and create a word search for the class—include some of Jack's favorites.

**Other Titles and Websites of Interest**

*Alvin Ho: Allergic to Dead Bodies, Funerals and Other Fatal Circumstances* by Lenore Look (Schwartz and Wade)

*Horrible Harry and the Secret Treasure* by Suzy Kline (Viking)

*I Found a Dead Bird: The Kids' Guide to the Cycle of Life and Death* by Jan Thornhill (Maple Tree Press)

*Meeting Miss 405* by Lois Peterson (Orca)

The Candy Wrapper Museum  
www.candywrappermuseum.com

**Other Books by the Author from Orca Book Publishers**

*The Ballad of Knuckles McGraw* (Orca Young Readers)

*Beyond Repair* (Orca Currents)

*Meeting Miss 405* (Orca Young Readers)

*The Paper House* (Orca Young Readers)

*Silver Rain*

**Reviews**

*"The Wrong Bus* is a unique story that lets children confront an important subject at their own level, making it a good addition to both personal and school collections. Recommended."

—*CM Magazine*

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