

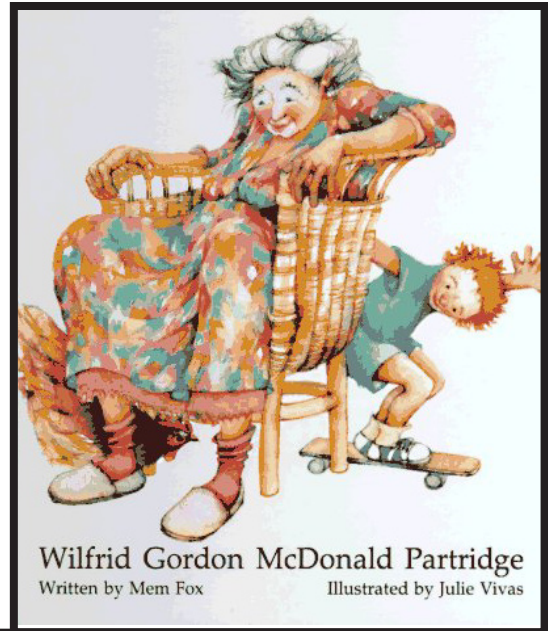
STORYLINE ONLINE PRESENTS:

# "WILFRID GORDON MCDONALD PARTRIDGE"

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Readers' Theatre Adaptation by *Jan Powell*,  
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## Characters:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Wilfrid

Miss Nancy

Mother

Father

Mrs. Jordan

Mr. Hosking

Mr. Tippet

Miss Mitchell

Mr. Drysdale

Narr. 1     There was once a small boy called  
Wilfrid     Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Narr. 1     and what's more he wasn't very old either. His house was  
next door to an old people's home and he knew all the  
people who lived there.

Narr. 2     He liked Mrs. Jordan who played the organ.

Narr. 1     He listened to Mr. Hosking who told him scary stories.

Narr. 2     He played with Mr. Tippettt who was crazy about cricket.

Narr. 1     He ran errands for Miss Mitchell who walked with a wooden  
stick.

Narr. 2     He admired Mr. Drysdale who had a voice like a giant.

Narr. 1     But his favourite person of all was  
Miss Nancy     Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper

Narr. 1     because she had four names just as he did. He called her  
Miss Nancy and told her all his secrets.

Narr. 2     One day Wilfrid Gordon heard his mother and father  
talking about Miss Nancy.

Mother     "Poor old thing."

Wilfrid     "Why is she a poor old thing?"

Father     "Because she's lost her memory, "

Mother     "It isn't surprising, "  
              "After all, she is ninety-six."

Wilfrid     "What's a memory?"

Narr. 2 asked Wilfrid Gordon. He was always asking questions.

Father "It is something you remember,"

Narr. 1 said his father.

Narr. 2 But Wilfrid Gordon wanted to know more, so he called on Mrs. Jordan who played the organ.

Wilfrid "What's a memory?"

Narr. 2 he asked.

Mrs. Jordan "Something warm, my child, something warm."

Narr. 1 He called on Mr. Hosking who told him scary stories.

Wilfrid "What's a memory?"

Narr. 1 he asked.

Mr. Hosking "Something from long ago, me lad, something from long ago."

Narr. 2 He called on Mr. Tippett who was crazy about cricket.

Wilfrid "What's a memory?"

Narr. 2 he asked.

Mr. Tippett "Something that makes you cry, my boy, something that makes you cry."

Narr. 1 He called on Miss Mitchell who walked with a wooden stick.

Wilfrid "What's a memory?"

Narr. 1 he asked.

Miss Mitchell "Something that makes you laugh, my darling,  
something that makes you laugh."

Narr. 2 He called on Mr. Drysdale who had a voice like a giant.

Wilfrid "What's a memory?"

Narr. 2 he asked.

Mr. Drysdale "Something as precious as gold, young man,  
something as precious as gold."

Narr. 1 So Wilfrid Gordon went home again to look for memories  
for Miss Nancy because she had lost her own.

Narr. 2 He looked for the shoe-box of shells he had found long  
ago last summer, and put them gently in a basket.

Narr. 1 He found the puppet on strings which always made  
everyone laugh and he put that in the basket too.

Narr. 2 He remembered with sadness the medal which his  
grandfather had given him and he place it gently next  
to the shells.

Narr. 1 Next he found his football which was precious as gold,  
and last of all, on his way to Miss Nancy's, he went into  
the hen house and took a fresh, warm egg from under a  
hen.

Narr. 2 Then Wilfrid Gordon called on Miss Nancy and gave her  
each thing one by one.

Miss Nancy "What a dear, strange child to bring me all these  
wonderful things,"

Narr. 2 thought Miss Nancy. Then she started to remember.

- Narr. 1 She held the warm egg and told Wilfrid Gordon about the tiny speckled blue eggs she had once found in a bird's nest in her aunt's garden.
- Narr. 2 She put a shell to her ear and remembered going to the beach by tram long ago and how hot she felt in her button-up boots.
- Narr. 1 She touched the medal and talked sadly of the big brother she had who had gone to the war and never returned.
- Narr. 2 She smiled at the puppet on strings and remembered the one she had shown to her sister, and how she laughed with a mouth full of porridge.
- Narr. 1 She bounced the football to Wilfrid Gordon and remembered the day she had met him and all the secrets they had told.
- Narr. 1 & 2 And the two of them smiled and smiled because Miss Nancy's memory had been found again by a small boy, who wasn't very old either.

Watch online video of actor **Bradley Whitford** reading this story at  
<http://www.storylineonline.net>

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