



Hayley Lowe

The
Pie Reports

A connection as sweet as pie.

NOOR AND GRANDDAD LOVE PIE. Lemon meringue, blueberry crisp, chocolate cream...they have a pie for every occasion and spend a wonderful summer together trying each one. When vacation ends, Noor must say goodbye and fly home. But despite an ocean of distance between them, and Granddad's declining health, the pair continue to connect through their shared passion for pastry by meeting for video chats. These weekly pie reports let them chat about what's new and, of course, eat pie!

Then one day, Granddad doesn't log in. He's experiencing more blue days and doesn't feel like talking. Noor decides to write down her pie reports, holding space for Granddad until he feels ready.

This gentle story celebrates the special bond between a child and her grandparent and shows the lengths we can go to connect to our loved ones through distance and illness.

Hayley Lowe is a Canadian illustrator and storyteller. She enjoys exploring a range of media but is particularly drawn to pencil, charcoal and gouache—and a sprinkle of digital magic. In a previous chapter of her life, Hayley worked as a contemporary dancer and as a children's yoga instructor, using storytelling as a tool to teach and ignite imaginations. She lives with her family in Vancouver, British Columbia.

PICTURE BOOK

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The Pie Reports

Author/illustrator: Hayley Lowe

May 14, 2024

Despite living an ocean apart, a child connects with her grandfather over a shared love of pie and learns to hold space for him through his progressive illness.

FORMAT	Hardcover	PDF	EPUB
9 x 9"	9781459838079	9781459838086	9781459838093
32 pages	\$21.95		

KEY SELLING POINTS

- In this celebration of intergenerational friendship, a child and her grandfather turn their shared love of pie into a creative way to stay connected despite the long distance separating them.
- The child finds a way to hold space for her grandfather when he is unable to chat, as he experiences the physical and mental health challenges of a degenerative disease.
- Author/illustrator Hayley Lowe drew inspiration from her own family's experiences with Parkinson's Disease and created this story for children who might have loved ones experiencing illness or loved ones who live far away.
- Delicious illustrations depict a parade of pies through the seasons, with a warmth of color and emotion.



PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANIE LAING

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

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PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

- Print and online advertising campaigns
- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley and Edelweiss
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca newsletters

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“I need pie!” shouted Granddad as he and Mom walked through the front door.

“What did the doctor say?” asked Noor. Granddad’s arm had been shaking more than usual, and some days he didn’t leave his chair. He called these his blue days. “I need to stay active and focus on the things that make me happy.”



Noor and Granddad *loved* pie. They had spent many happy days of summer vacation trying new flavors and enjoying old favorites, like lemon meringue for listening to engines



and blueberry crisp for watching waves roll in.



Today's pie was special—a bittersweet chocolate cream pie. The end-of-summer, time-to-say-goodbye pie.





He hugged her close and whispered, “You are stronger than you know, Noori. I love you more than all the pies in the world.”

Noor giggled. Granddad always found a way to make her smile.

“Don’t forget to log in for our Friday pie report!” he added with a wink.

When it was time for Noor and Mom to fly home, Granddad and Nana drove them to the airport. Mom loaded their suitcases onto a trolley and squeezed Nana tight. Noor’s stomach flipped, and her eyes started to burn. She crumpled into Granddad’s arms.



On the airplane, Noor slumped into her seat as she counted the months until she would be with Granddad again. Memories of the summer filled her thoughts.

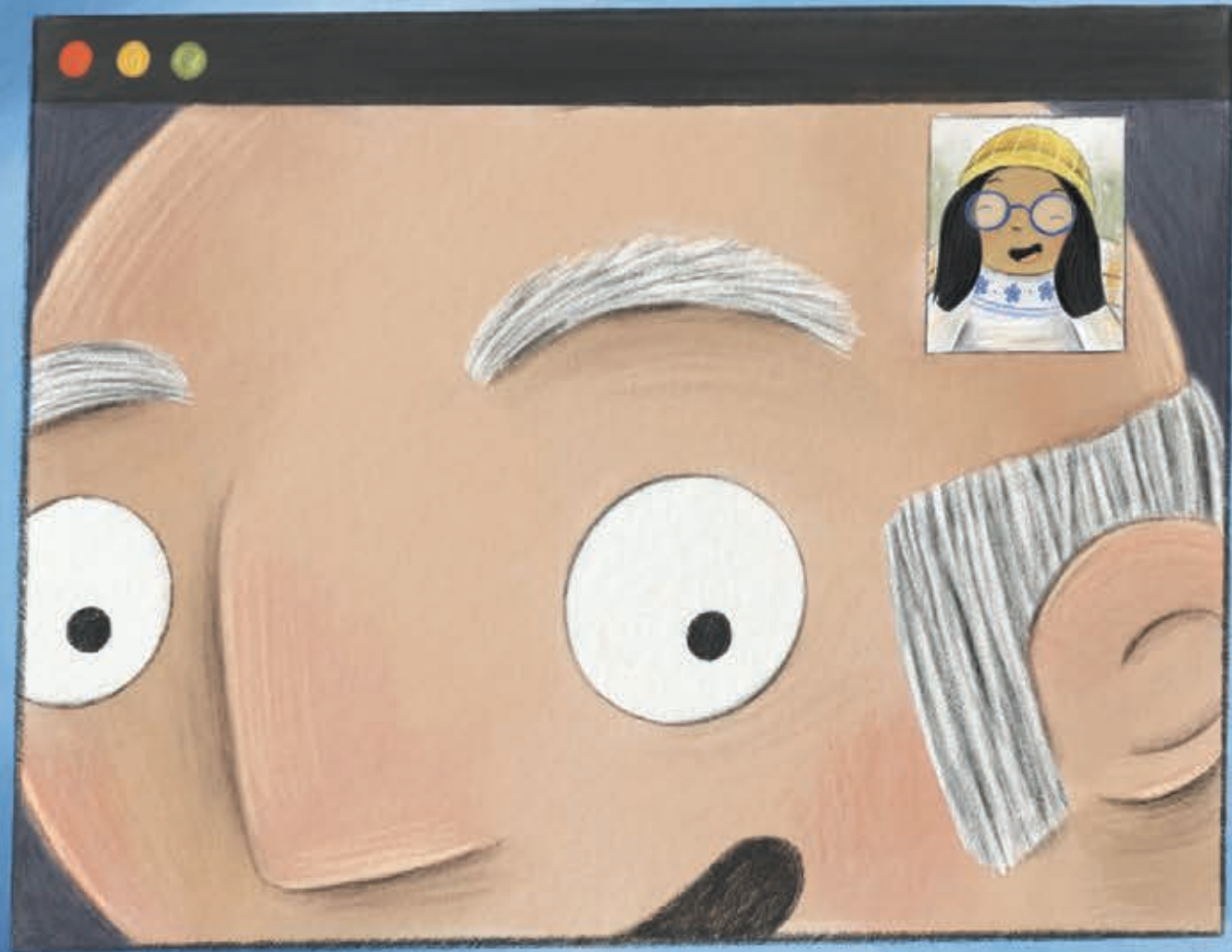




The first week back at school raced by. Noor was excited to tell Granddad everything.



Setting herself up in a cozy corner, she grabbed a slice of blackberry pie and logged in for the first pie report.

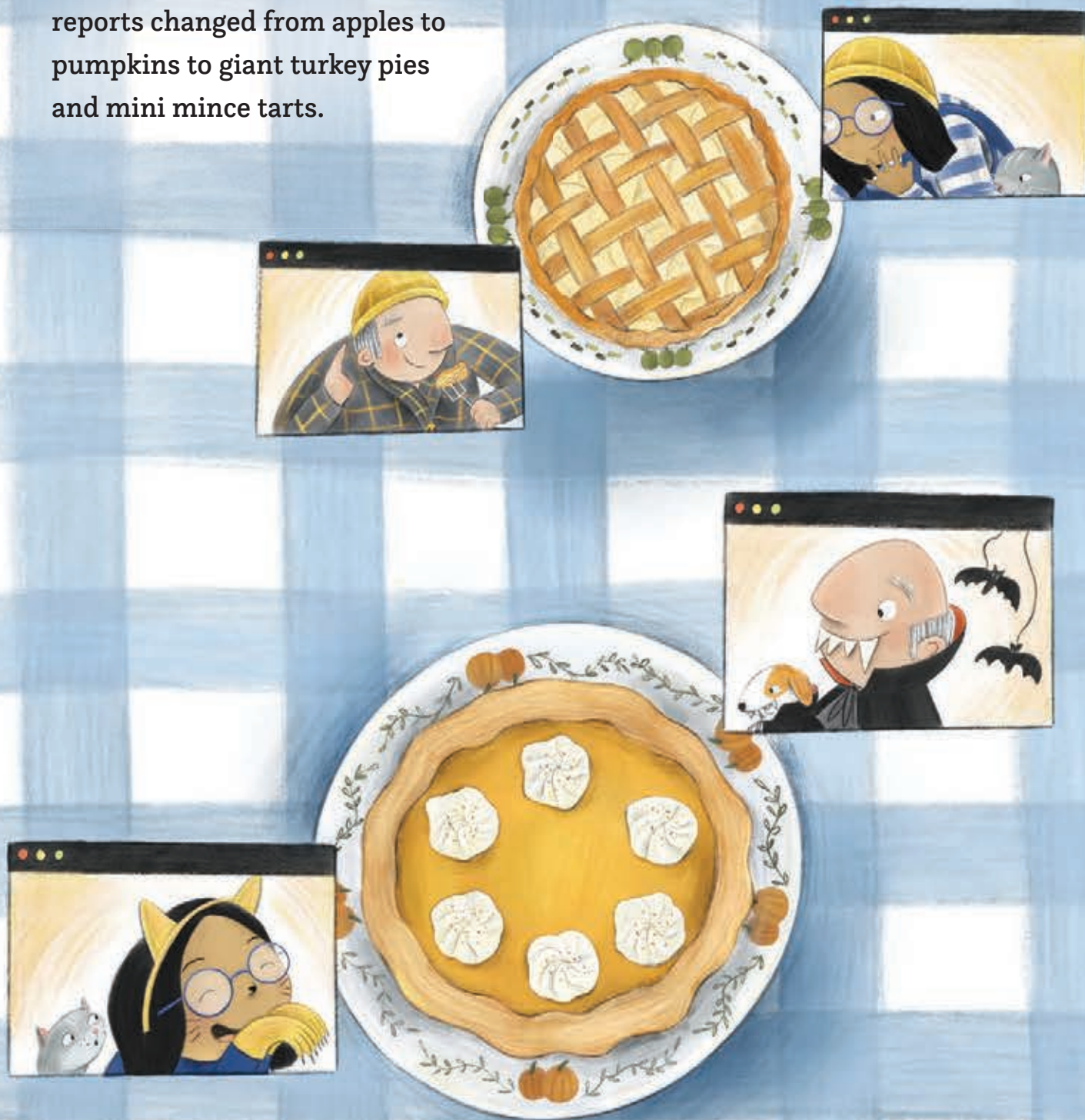


“Can you see me?” shouted Granddad.
“Move back a little,” Noor said with a giggle.



“Okay, I’m ready. Time to fill me in!” mumbled Granddad through a mouthful of berries.

As the weeks passed, the pie reports changed from apples to pumpkins to giant turkey pies and mini mince tarts.



One cool spring evening, Noor curled up with a slice of her favorite banoffee pie and waited for Granddad, but he didn't appear.





Mom explained that Granddad was having more blue days than usual and needed a break from the pie reports. “Don’t worry, sweetie,” Mom reassured her. “He just needs some time.”

Noor decided to write her pie reports in letters and tuck them away until she could share them with Granddad again.



School came to an end, and it was finally time to fly across the ocean to see her grandparents.



After the long journey from plane to train to taxi, the smell of sweet summer rain filled Noor's heart. After giving Nana a hug, Noor ran inside to find Granddad.



Granddad was sitting in his favorite chair, staring out the window. Noor gently climbed into his lap.

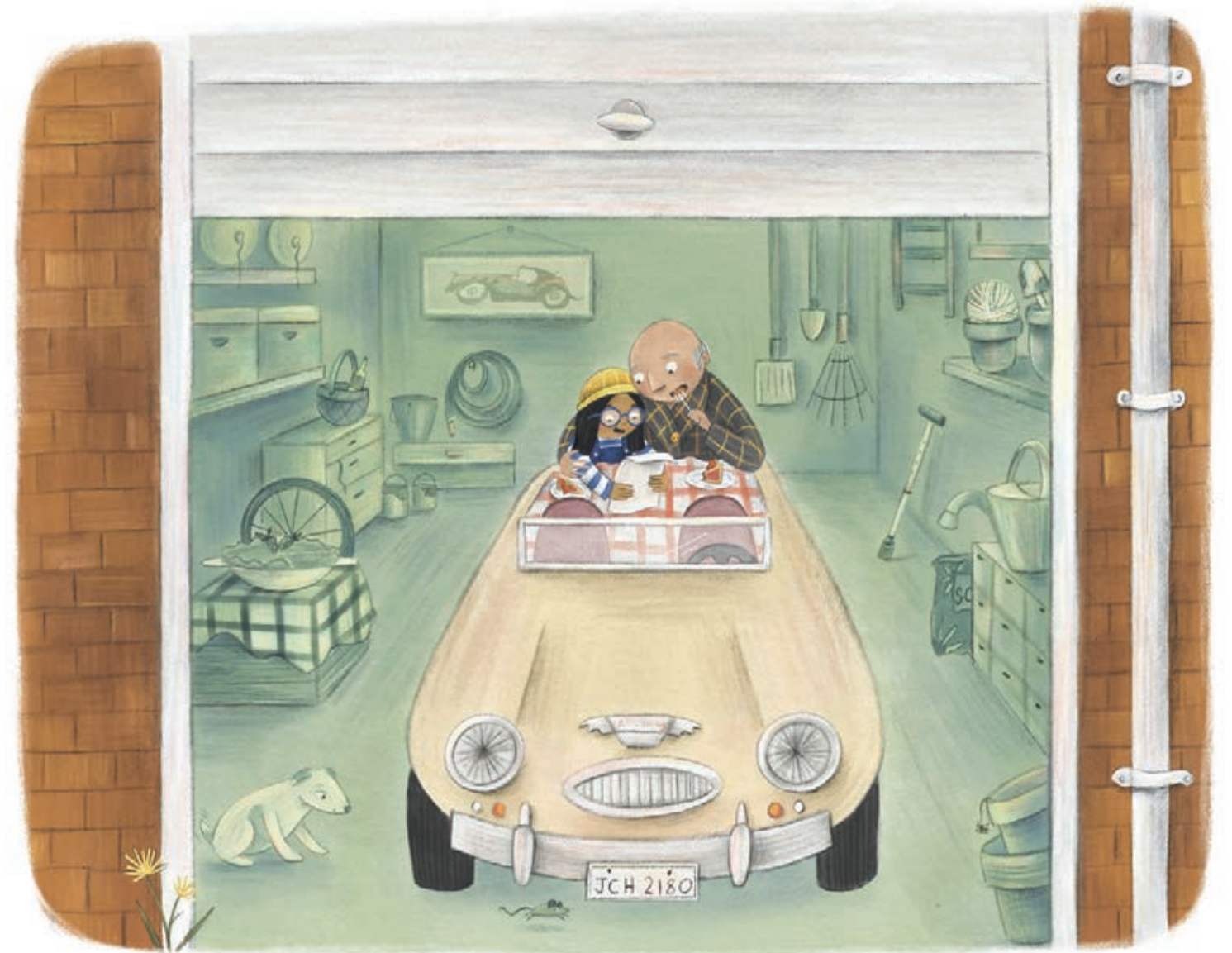
Granddad wrapped his arms around her and said softly, "Hi, Noori. I think we need some pie."



With Nana's help, Granddad and Noor baked a strawberry-rhubarb pie. They packed some lemonade and all the pie reports Noor had been saving.



Granddad chose his peaceful spot. Noor cut two slices of pie and snuggled in next to him as she began to read aloud.



They read more the next day.
And the next. If a blue day crept
in, Granddad napped and Noor
dreamed of new pie fillings. When
the blue faded away, they rolled,
filled and baked.



As the weeks passed, the pie
reports changed from raspberry to
cherry to golden peach and purple
plum. The sparkle returned to
Granddad's eyes, and his laughter
filled their summer days.





Then that special pie arrived. The end-of-summer, time-to-say-goodbye pie.

Noor slid a slice over to Granddad with a card she had made. "For when you need to find your way out of the blue," she said, smiling.

Granddad turned to Noor. As he hugged her tight, she whispered in his ear, "You are stronger than you know, Granddad. I love you more than all the pies in the world."



For Mum and JJ

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