



A visual representation of "Grandfather" by Gillian Bickley

Grandfather Gillian Bickley

My grandfather was a quiet man;
an allotment near the railway line,
where his working life was spent,
gave him additional quiet.

"Ask your grandfather to take you there,"
the family suggested.

He showed me his shed,
but most of all the robin's nest
with blue eggs or bald young,
and an alert bright-eyed brown nesting bird,
on a high shelf in the dark,
which a curious small girl could just
stand tip-toe to see.

"Don't touch it now!" he warned,
quite sternly, for him.

"She'll abandon the nest, fly away,
perhaps never return."

His own mother had done that;
died when he was fourteen.

For the rest of his life, on one day of the year,
The quiet man was quietest of all.

"What's the matter?" his wife or daughter
(my mother and grandmother) would ask.

"This was the day my mother died,"
came his unchangeable reply.

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Even though the grandfather's mother died when he was fourteen, he still remembers her love and care for the family. I drew the robin which reminds him of his mother. A woman is embracing a boy on the nest, which reflects grandfather's sweet memories with his mother in the good old days.

In the poem, the grandfather stops the little girl from touching the nest because he wants to avoid any damages to the robin's home. His protection for the nest actually represents how much he treasures his family and his mother's love. I believe he is deeply influenced by his mother and grows up as a kind hearted person who loves his family very much.

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Positive value(s) and attitude(s):

Love

Positive message(s):

Treasure the happy moments with your loved ones.