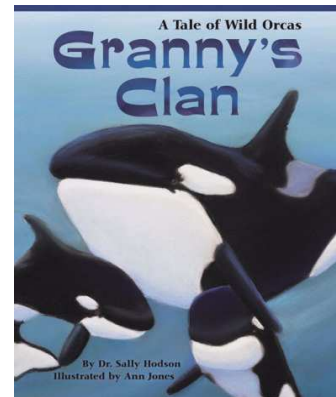


Dr. Sally Hodson

Author and Teacher



Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas

Dr. Sally Hodson

Ann Jones (illustrator)

Dawn Publications

Ages 4-10, 32 pages, 9" x 11"

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About the Book

Imagine spending a day traveling the seas of the Pacific Northwest with a wild orca family.

Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas takes young readers on a real-life adventure with one-hundred year old Granny (J-2), a wild orca great-great-grandmother and her family. Written for ages 4-10, this children's picture book weaves science with story to explore the importance of family and friendship and the power of a grandmother's love in helping her endangered family survive. Readers join Granny and two young orcas as they welcome a new baby, "see" with sounds, hunt for salmon, play, communicate, face dangers and encounter humans.

Granny and her family are real killer whales who belong to one of the most famous and studied wild orca populations in the world. ***Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas*** brings young readers into the orca's world to discover what scientists have learned about their lives, culture and behavior.

During the century of her life, Granny has experienced the entire range of human behavior towards orcas. Once feared and shot on sight, killer whales have become Pacific Northwest icons and their images appear everywhere. Hundreds of thousands of people watch orcas from boats and shore. Millions of children have seen Granny and her family make an appearance as wild orcas in the *Free Willy* movies. As the largest of the dolphins, orcas are very intelligent, unique individuals who live complex social lives. Granny's family spends all of their lives together and their family relationships are crucial to their survival. An orca family in the sea may look different from ours, but their experiences are familiar and resonate with our own. Orca families share food, communicate with each other and care for their little ones. An orca grandmother babysits, teaches and plays with her grandkids just as human grannies do.

Dr. Hodson has written a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary activity guide for ***Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas*** to help kids learn more about orcas and their lives in the sea. [Activities](#) (link)

Praise for Granny's Clan

Granny's Clan is a true story about orca whales, beautifully written by a whale expert. These majestic whales live in tightly knit family groups called "pods" that keep in close contact by talking with one another. They are incredible acrobats who love to play. Granny's Clan is a wonderful book that shows how much we can learn from other animals. I highly recommend it.

Dr. Marc Bekoff, University of Colorado, author of the ***Emotional Lives of Animals*** and ***Animals at Play: Rules of the Game***.

Killer whales - orcas - are to the sea what we are to the land: intelligent, social, talkative, and playful. I love this story of Granny and her family, the J pod. Granny's Clan perfectly combines wonderful

storytelling and beautiful illustrations to captivate young minds and help them to appreciate that every individual matters, every species counts. As my later father, Jacques Cousteau used to say, "people protect what they love." After reading this story, you will fall in love with orcas.

Jean-Michel Cousteau, filmmaker and founder, Ocean Futures Society

About the Author

Dr. Hodson wrote ***Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas*** to share the real life story of this amazing wild orca family with children. She remembers a special encounter with Granny. "Once, on a whale-watching trip, Granny (J-2) swam alongside our boat, raised her head above the surface and looked directly into my eyes for several moments. Making eye contact with a century old great-grandmother orca is an experience that cannot be described with words. I was captivated and knew I had to share her story with kids."

During her career, Dr. Hodson taught elementary, secondary and special needs students, trained teachers and taught professional workshops and classes for adults. She earned her doctoral degree at the University of Colorado with a focus on education, environmental science and animal behavior. From observing wolf packs in Yellowstone National Park to swimming with wild dolphins in the Bahamas, she's explored and shared the lives of animals with kids and adults through her teaching and writing. While the Executive Director at The Whale Museum, she helped coordinate the successful rescue of Springer (A-73), the orphaned baby orca found in Puget Sound who was returned to her wild family in Canada. A portion of the proceeds from ***Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas*** will be donated to non-profit organizations working to learn about and protect orcas.