Outline:

I like it when Papa tells stories about the olden days. There were no radios or TVs, instead families would sing around pianos. Rather than cars, everybody rode horses. The townspeople even had to make their own bread and bricks because the nearest city was far away. Although it was long ago, Papa still remembers those days with a smile.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Ian Edwards has written or spoken thousands of stories for children, often for his own children, but now that they have all grown-up, more usually for his four grandchildren. Some of these tales (not always for children) have been published in magazines, newspapers and books all over the world. His first book, Peanuts and Tigers and Other Short Stories, was originally published in Singapore. Ian has worked with Rachel Tonkin on several books: The Money Eaters, Little Chickens Big Trouble, Mad Bad Goose and Papa and the Olden Days. Papa was Honour Book in the Book of the Year: Younger Readers category of the 1990 Children’s Book Council of Australia Awards and is his first title with Walker Books Australia. The rest of Ian's stories are still floating around the world, waiting to land.

Rachel Tonkin is an award-winning author-illustrator who has contributed to more than 100 fiction, non-fiction and picture book titles. She has been published within Australia and overseas. Her work Papa and the Olden Days, written by Ian Edwards, was Honour Book in the Book of the Year: Younger Readers category of the 1990 Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Awards. When I Was A Kid was short-listed for the 1998 Children's History Prize, part of the NSW Premier's History Awards. In addition to this, several of her books have been short-listed for the CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books: What Was the War Like, Grandma? in 1996, Grandpa’s Stories in 1997 and Leaf Litter in 2007. Rachel currently lives in rural Victoria with her husband.
Before reading *Papa and the Olden Days*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end?

Research the author and illustrator on the internet. Have they written any other books? Make a PowerPoint presentation about them and show it to the class.

What is the purpose of this text (tell a story, give information, persuade, etc.)? Does it have more than one purpose? How can you tell? Who is the intended audience this book?

Why do some words have a capital letter when they aren’t at the beginning of a sentence?

Most of the illustrations have groups of people in them. Why do you think the illustrator chose to show large groups rather than focus on Papa?

Look at the clothes that the characters wear in the illustrations. How has fashion changed since then? For example, look at the clothes people wore to go shopping, play tennis, see a play and spend time with their family at home.

Are the illustrations in this book realistic? How do they help the reader understand what life was like in the olden days?

Ask your grandparents or another relative what life was like for them when they were a child. Give a short verbal presentation to the class about what you find out. Show any photos or items that your grandparents have from their childhood.

Write and illustrate a story about a day in the life of a child in the olden days.

What is the equivalent to a general store today? Would you find the same items in it as described in Papa’s parent’s store?

Find Thoona on a map of Australia. How far away is it in relation to your school?

Think of some other clever ways that shopkeepers could have attracted customers into their shops.

Why was 120 miles “a long way in the olden days”? Why would it not be so long today?

Throughout the book, Papa talks about distance in miles and weight in pounds. What do we use today to measure distance and weight? When did this change?

Look at the page where Papa describes how his family gathered around the piano in the evenings. How does your family spend time together? How is this different to Papa’s family?

Why did “good neighbours” mean “a lot in those days”?

Imagine one of the characters in the story has been transported forward in time to today. Describe the initial reaction to today’s world. Write and illustrate a story about their travels.

Play a game of “egg in the hat” with your class to experience the types of games children played in the olden days.

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**Have you read these Walker Classics?**

**Walker Classics: Sand Swimmers**
Author/Illustrator: Narelle Oliver 9781922077288 AU$16.95/NZ$18.99 Classroom Ideas available

**Walker Classics: Ducky’s Nest**
Author: Gillian Rubinstein Illustrator: Terry Denton 9781922077721 AU$16.95/NZ$18.99 Classroom Ideas available

**Walker Classics: What Was the War Like, Grandma?**
Author/Illustrator: Rachel Tonkin 9781922179265 AU$16.95/NZ$18.99 Classroom Ideas available