

Writing with my grandpa

BY **Isabella R. Haddad, age 10**
(with *Geoffrey B. Haddad*)

When I was around four years old my grandpa showed me the scrapbook that he had been making for me. It had all types of things: drawings, cut-outs and some of my school projects. Then there were photos, lots of them. Photos of us hiking and fishing, me blowing bubbles and feeding the fish in his garden pond – even ones of me making lunch for grandpa.

Then grandpa showed me some of his own scrapbooks, with stuff, lots of stuff from when he was a boy. He said that his dad and mom mostly made them. He told me about things he did during and after school and stories of his childhood. Grandpa played many sports. He made boats, kites and planes, but most of all grandpa liked keeping beautiful tropical fish in his homeland of Jamaica. He hoped that one day he could have a very big pond with a river in his own back garden.

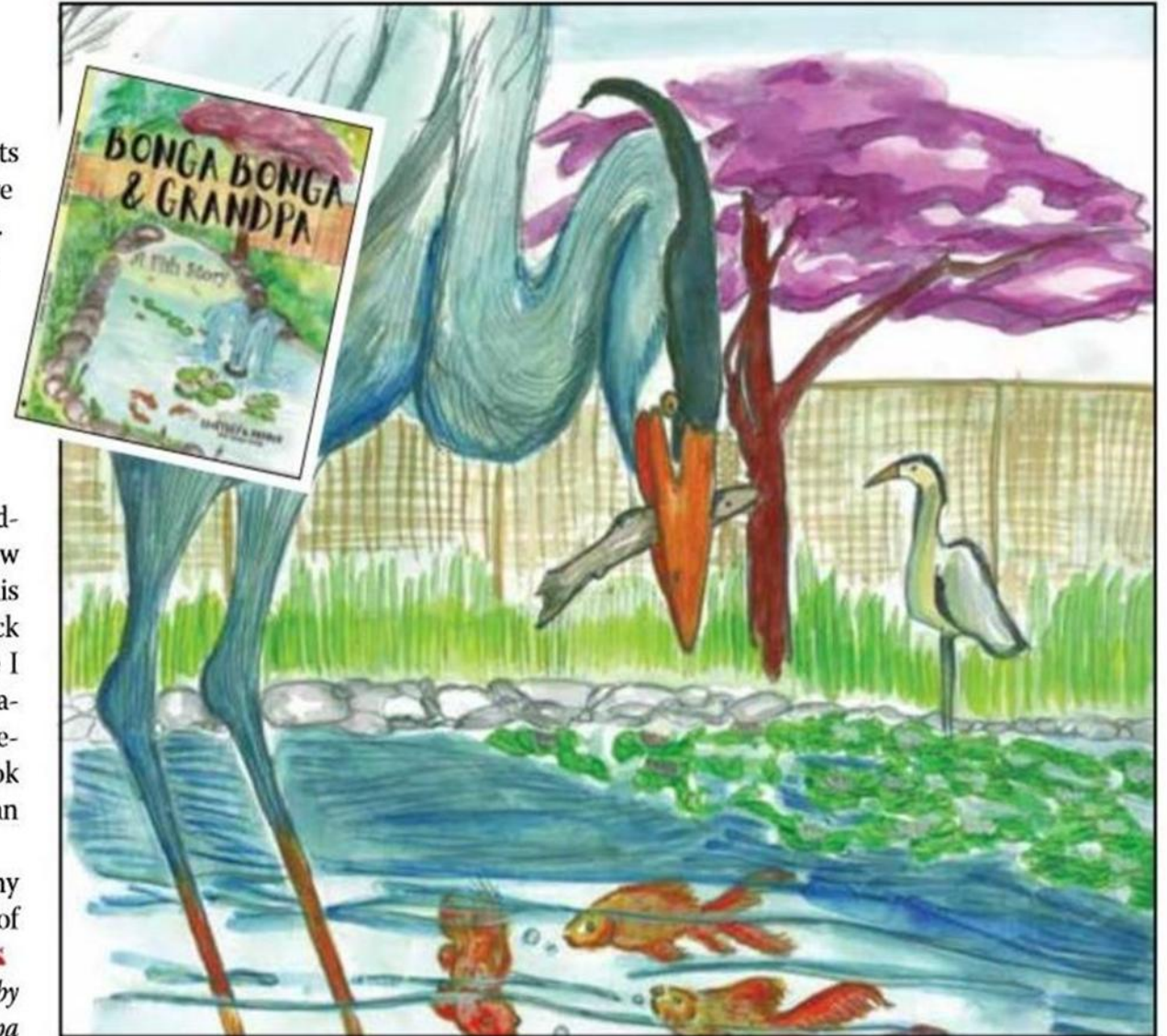
When I was about five, grandpa read me this poem by Lillian Trujillo.

“When you are young, your grandparents try to tell you their history, and you don’t care because it doesn’t interest you at the time. Later on, you wish you had written what they said down.”

This made me excited. I asked my grandpa if he would help me record all of these lovely stories and the fun times we had together.

Our first book is called *Bonga Bonga and Grandpa: A Fish Story*. It’s about grandpa’s favourite pets, the fish and how to grow and protect them and how grandpa got his dream of building a fishpond in his own back garden, in West Vancouver, which is where I live. The book also has some beautiful illustrations of fish, cats, herons and raccoons. I really enjoyed working with my grandpa. It took almost two years to get it published. We plan to do a series.

I still enjoy reading it and I hope that many children will, too. I wish that all the children of the world could have a grandpa like I have. 🐟 You can read more about *Bonga Bonga* (the name by which Isabella is affectionately known), her grandpa and their stories at www.geoffreyhaddadbooks.com.



A Fish Story is the first book in the planned *Bonga Bonga and Grandpa* series.

Images provided