Room – Character Questions – Grandma

**Q: “Grandma does her best to help Jack and Ma under difficult circumstances”. Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the text.**

Based on my reading of the novel “Room” by Emma Donoghue I think Grandma is a wonderful character who does her best to help both Jack and Ma when they come out of Room. Grandma, in my opinion, is a down-to-earth loving mother and grandmother. Grandma takes Jack home to stay with her when Ma is ill, telling the doctor that he is not allowed to keep Jack “like a prisoner” when he has a family to take care of him. When the doctor criticises her “standard of care”, Grandma says she has raised two children and that a little sunburn and a bee sting are nothing.

Grandma doesn’t have much time for people who overthink things. Jack hears people on TV comparing him to characters from myths and stories. She tells Jack, “Those guys spent too much tome at college”, and she “rolls her eyes” when Jack says that Ma is going to send him to college. Grandma’s idea of no-nonsense childcare is very different to Dr Clay’s. However, she deals with him in a practical and generally sensible way. Jack learns a lot about how to behave in society when he is with her.

I can tell that Grandma works hard and is doing her best as she sometimes gets frustrated but continues doing her best for Jack and Ma. Grandma disapproves of Ma breastfeeding Jack and when Ma says, “you don’t know the first thing” about their life in Room, Grandma says, “It’s not for want of asking”. Grandma also finds Jack to be a handful sometimes and when he has a tantrum in her house she asks Steppa to take over because she has had enough. She finds it hard that Jack knows so much about maths but doesn’t know how to use a swing, for example. Ma and Jack are not the only ones who have some adjusting to do. Grandma struggles to build a new relationship with her daughter and has to learn how to deal with a grandson who knows next to nothing about the world.