



**My Grandpa is a
Fighter Pilot**



One day Adam took some pictures of his Grandpa to school for show-and-tell. When it was his turn, he got up in the front of the classroom and smiled at his classmates. Then he showed them the pictures and talked about each one.

This is what he said:



My Grandpa is a Fighter Pilot



When he was a young man, he flew a jet fighter plane called the F-106 Delta Dart. It could fly very fast.





Some of the F-106s that my Grandpa flew had seats for two people in them, but he usually flew planes that had only one seat.





One day my Grandpa took my Daddy and my Grandma and two of my Great-Grandpas to see an F-106. They thought the F-106 was a very pretty airplane to look at, but it was very noisy. When my Grandpa started up the plane's jet engine, it made a loud ROAR!

When my Grandpa would fly the F-106 very fast, it would make a loud BOOM when it went by. When my Grandpa would shoot the missiles the plane carried, they would make a loud WHOOSH!



A few years later, my grandpa flew the F-4 Phantom II.





The F-4 was not a very pretty airplane, but it had cool eyes and teeth painted on it. The F-4 was even noisier than the F-106!





A Fighter Pilot has to be able to refuel his airplane in the air. To do this, he flies his fighter plane behind another airplane called a tanker. The tanker lowers a pipe which connects to the fighter plane and pumps fuel into it.





Sometimes my Grandpa would carry bombs and missiles on his F-4. But he never used them in a war. He only dropped bombs and fired missiles for practice.



Sometimes my Grandpa would fly his F-4 to tiny islands in the big Pacific Ocean.



My Grandpa doesn't fly jet fighter planes anymore, but he says he is still a fighter pilot.

He says being a fighter pilot means more than just what type of airplane you fly. He says being a fighter pilot means doing your best at whatever you do.

My Grandpa says that if I do my best at whatever I do, I can be a fighter pilot too, no matter what kind of work I choose to do to make a living.



He says my Aunt Maria is a fighter pilot, because she does her best as a dental hygienist.



He says my Grandma is a fighter pilot, because she does her best as a grandma!



I don't know yet what I will do for a living, but whatever I do, I'm going to do my best.

Then I can be a fighter pilot, too.



Just like my grandpa!