



WILFRID GORDON MCDONALD PARTRIDGE
by
Mem Fox

Wilfrid was a small boy who loved all of the elderly people who lived next door, but he loved Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper best because she also had four names and she loved to hear all his secrets. When he learned that she had lost her memory, he went home to search for memories to replace her lost ones.

Memories are different for different people and so he finds the objects that will help her remember the events of the past that she has forgotten. Wilfrid is an excellent observer and a problem solver, and he believes in a "hands-on" approach!

Each of us has struggled to "memorize" lists, directions, poems, names of people, and many other items as we continually strive to educate ourselves. Scientists are working to unlock the brain so that we have a better understanding of why we remember.

Could it be as simple as the technique used to make this piece of metal remember? Certainly not, but as students experiment with the piece of memory metal they may discover some ways that help the metal (and themselves) remember longer.

MATERIALS: a piece of nitinol memory metal, container of warm water

ACTIVITY: Wrap the piece of memory wire around a pencil or bend it into any shape. Drop it into hot water and watch it return to its original shape. This activity can be repeated many times.

TEACHER NOTES: Nitinol memory wire is made from a crystalline metal that changes phase around 50°C. Even if its shape is changed, it "remembers" its original shape.

SOURCE: Institute for Chemical Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706.

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.1, 1.2, 3.3, 4.6, 4.8, 8.2, 11.4, 12.1, 12.3, 12.7

NCTM: 4d, 9b

SCS: A1, B1, B2, D1, H2, H5

Source of Memory Metal: Educational Innovations, Inc.: 1-888-912-7474.

Online: www.teachersource.com

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