


# **Novel Resource for the novel: Funerals & Fly Fishing by Mary Bartek**

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<b>About the Author Mary Bartek</b>	
<b>Background and Interesting Facts</b>	Mary Marron Bartek was born in Windber, Pennsylvania. She taught secondary reading and English for nine years in her home state then moved with her husband and daughter to Maryland where she began teaching gifted children. In 1990 her family moved to Colorado where she lives and works today. She loves writing and learning!
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<b>Author's Connection to the Book</b>	Mary's father took over a funeral business Pennsylvania when she was seven years old. Her family moved into the second story above it. She says she still remembers their first tour of the first floor, recalling eerie draperies with large orange flowers.
<b>Other Books Written by the Author</b>	<u>Funerals &amp; Fly Fishing</u> is Mary Bartek's first middle grade novel. However, she has written short stories, humor and family essays, and articles, which have been published in over forty publications including <i>Woman's World</i> and <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> .

### Annotation

It's the last day of 6<sup>th</sup> grade year and 12 year old Brad Stanislawski is thinking 'freedom!' Freedom from school and homework, especially freedom from being called "Stan-is-lousy". He soon learns that while his mom goes to California for a week, Brad is going to Wallace Corners, Pennsylvania to spend the week with his grandfather. That wouldn't be back except Brad has never met the man. Through the years his mom hasn't said much about her father and Brad discovers she didn't mention that he runs a funeral home and lives above it. While in Wallace Corners, Brad comes to like the small town and even makes a friend. His grandfather teaches Brad about fly fishing and about the Stanislawski family heritage. Brad takes steps to reunite his mom and grandfather and gains confidence in himself and respect for his family name.

### Booktalk

What would you think if your mom told you that she was going to California for a week and you were going to spend that week with your grandfather? That might sound ok to you, right? But Brad Stanislawski has never met his grandfather. And he has to travel 1500 miles from Colorado to a small town in Pennsylvania where his grandfather, Stanley Stanislawski, lives. When he arrives in Wallace Corners he finds out that his grandfather runs Stanislawski Funeral Home and he lives in that same building! During his week there, Brad discovers some interesting stuff—about his grandfather, about his mother, about his family heritage and about himself. Be sure to check out Funerals & Fly Fishing by Mary Bartek.

### Characters

<u>Name &amp; Age</u>	<u>Relationship to other Characters</u>	<u>Personality Traits</u>
Brad, 12 years old	Main character	Lacks confidence, wants to fit in with other kids
Rita	Mother of Brad	Self-sufficient, hard-working
Grandfather	Rita's father	Serious about his work, caring
Pat Robinson	Friend Brad makes in Wallace Corners	Inquisitive, mischievous, has a knack for finding trouble

### Conflict

Brad struggles with an internal conflict. He is picked on by other kids because of his size and his last name, Stanislawski, and he doesn't know how to deal with the teasing.

<b>Conflict Resolution</b>
Brad gains respect for his family name after reading about his great-great-great grandfather Stanislowski, a Polish war hero, and after talking with his grandfather about his struggles as a child.
<b>Genre</b>
Family fiction