DIE WOERTER FLIEGEN

THE WORDS FLY

Basic English translation

Page nos. correspond to the PDF double spread nos.

pp. 7-8

This is a table, says Oma.

And here is the window.

When you open it,

The wind comes in.

Or a fly.

Or a butterfly.

pp. 9-10

Table, says Pia.

Window, say Pia. Wind.

Fly. Butterfly.

The words fly

From Oma to Pia.

pp. 11-12

Oma has so many words.

Man. Woman. Child.

Mama. Papa. Ocean.

Grandma. Grandpa. Teddybear.

Puppet. Drum. Picturebook.

Cake. Cheese. Lemonade.

Silver fir. Rose garden.

Swimming pool and Deck chair.

FLY! says Pia.

And all of the words fly.

From Oma to Pia.

p. 13

How old am I? asks Pia.

You are two years old, says Oma.

Am I a girl or a boy?

A girl, says Oma.

And I love you very much.

p. 14

Old. Young.

Boy. Girl.

Still more words fly.

Pia scoops them up.

And collects them.

All.

pp. 15-16

Pia has collected a small treasure of words.

And Pia grows and gets bigger.

And her treasure of words grows.

pp. 17-18

Pia shares Oma’s photo album.

There is a man. In many pictures.

Young. Older. Old.

That is Grandpa, says Oma.

He died. He is gone.

Are you sad? asks Pia.

Sometimes, says Oma.

But not when you are here!

pp. 19-20

Bring me the flowers, says Oma.

Which flowers, asks Pia.

The ones with the blue centers, says Oma.

She points to the coffee cup.

That has a blue flower. And a blue handle.

The soup is hot, says Oma. She drinks her coffee.

Shut the plate. It is windy.

(NOTE: Oma is beginning to show signs of dementia with these comments).

p. 21

Pia shakes her head.

Oma is becoming strange.

What is happening?

Maybe the word for “Door” has flown out the window.

For Oma, at least.

p. 22

I can no longer dance in the blue pond,

Says Oma, and she points sadly

To the swimming pool in the garden.

I will lie on the stool.

Pia, bring it on the porch.

pp. 23-24

Am I a man or a woman? Asks Oma.

A woman, says Pia.

But Oma, you already know that!

Of course, Oma says, quickly.

How old am I? asks Oma.

Eighty, says Pia. But Oma,

You already know that!

Of course, Oma says, quickly.

p. 25

Pia shows Oma her photo album.

Where is Grandpa, actually? Asks Oma.

He has been gone a long time.

Shouldn’t he be back by now?

Oma, says Pia, Grandpa is dead.

Oh, yes, says Oma. No wonder

That he hasn’t come home.

p. 26

The words fly. Away from Oma.

Hopefully a few remain.

Like…Life is good.

Or…I love you.

Maybe they will come back.

Or visit, at least.

p. 27-28

Oma sits very still.

She wears a deep frown.

Do you know, she says, I believe

The words will fly away from me.

Please close the window.

pp. 29-30

Pia hugs Oma.

I love you very much,

And don’t worry, Oma.

The words are all safe with me!