



I Heart You

Educator Guide

GRADES: PRESCHOOL - 3
AGE RANGE: 0-8
PUBLISHER: BEACH LANE BOOKS
ISBN-10 144248856
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This tender, rhyming picture book is a lively celebration of love.

Little ones adore being independent and trying new things. But they also need grown-ups' reassurance and snuggles. With her spare, lyrical text, author Meg Fleming captures the exuberance, the affection, and the tender push-and-pull of life with a child. And illustrator Sarah Jane Wright's evocative pictures infuse the story with generous helpings of warmth and love.

I sway you. I swing you. I snug you. I sing you.

About the Author Meg Fleming



Meg Fleming is an award-winning author and Literary Arts Ambassador. She has written many books for children, including *Here Comes Ocean*, *Sometimes Rain*, *Ready, Set, Sail!*, and *Ready, Set, Build!*. Meg received a literary honor from The Society of Midland Authors for the text in *I Heart You*.

Also a voice teacher, Meg draws on her love of rhythm, rhyme, and lyricism to create and imagine stories. She lives outside of San Francisco with her husband, her three kids, and her dog, Opal.

Visit Meg at megfleming.net

Sarah Jane Wright has been illustrating the world around her for as long as she can remember. She is the artist behind Sarah Jane Studios, which has a huge following on Pinterest and is a thriving business on Etsy, selling prints, wallpaper, etc.

Sarah Jane's other books include the *Lola Dutch* series co-authored by her husband, Kenneth Wright, and *The Secrets of Eastcliff-by-the-Sea* by Eileen Beha, among others. She lives in Utah with her family.

Visit Sarah Jane at sarahjanestudios.com

About the Illustrator Sarah Jane Wright



Be A Book Detective



Pre-reading Activities

Looking at the Front Cover:

The title of this book is I Heart You.

Ask your students the following questions.

Where is your heart?

What does it mean to “heart” someone or something?

Invite your students to play I-Spy with the cover of the book.

What are the names of the different animals on the cover?

How big are these animals?

Initiate a conversation about feelings using the following questions.

How do you think we’re going to feel reading this story?

Can we show feelings to animals and people?

Looking at the Back Cover:

Discuss what you see.

Who is on the back cover?

Discuss family relationships.

How big are the animals on the back cover?

What do you suppose is happening in the picture of the deer family?

Make A Prediction!

Now that we know the title of the book, some of the characters, and possible feelings, what do you think this book is going to be about?

Post-reading Activities

Rate Our Detective Work—

Were we right? This book is all about _____!

What are some of the ACTIONS that were used in this book?

Using the following questions, discuss ACTIONS and how actions show love.

How does the big duck show love by “stopping” the duckling?

How does the big bear show love by “lifting” the cub?

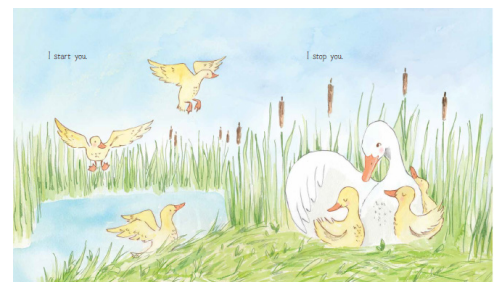
How does the big deer show love by “letting” the fawn explore?

Learning new things is a combination of working together (with a teacher, parent, friend, or sibling) and also trying that same thing alone.

Love has a little bit of ‘letting go’ in it. Why is this so?

How is the big deer still “with” the fawn, or baby deer, when the fawn is exploring?

Do you have somebody in your life that you keep in your heart even when you are out exploring? Discuss. Put your hand on your heart and model where your heart is. Sometimes the people and animals that you “heart” are actually in your heart. Discuss how love is portable. You can take it with you!



Extension Activities

A Show of Love

ACTIONS are a type of movement. They are also a form of COMMUNICATION.

We can communicate FEELINGS through our ACTIONS.

We may not understand the sounds that animals make to communicate with their voices, but we can see by their ACTIONS that they are communicating with each other.

In I Hear You, many of the ACTIONS show love.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Take Action:

Invite students to play a game of Simon Says using the actions in this book. Here are a few actions to get started.

Catch Hide Throw
Sing Lift Swim Pull
Swing Hop Sway

Social-Emotional Connection



I Understand...

EMPATHY is a word that explains how we are able to UNDERSTAND someone else's feelings. Empathy also helps us understand why certain people or animals do things a certain way.

What does the Little Deer want in this picture?

How is the Big Deer UNDERSTANDING of what the Little Deer wants?

Discuss UNDERSTANDING with your students. Ask them to share about a time where they felt understood.

Feeling UNDERSTOOD feels a lot like being CARED FOR. Encourage your students to care about others.

Words Are Words...

but the WAY we say our words is an ACTION.

TONE OF VOICE

Talk to your students about TONE and how they say their words.

TONE can be cheery. TONE can be friendly. TONE can also sometimes be unkind. Come up with a list of words for your students to repeat. Invite them to be actors and practice repeating the words using different tones. It is okay for them to test out unfavorable tones in this exercise- it will raise their awareness. After the activity, facilitate a discussion on positive and negative tones of voice and the FEELINGS surrounding different tones. Encourage positive interactions using positive actions and positive tone of voice.

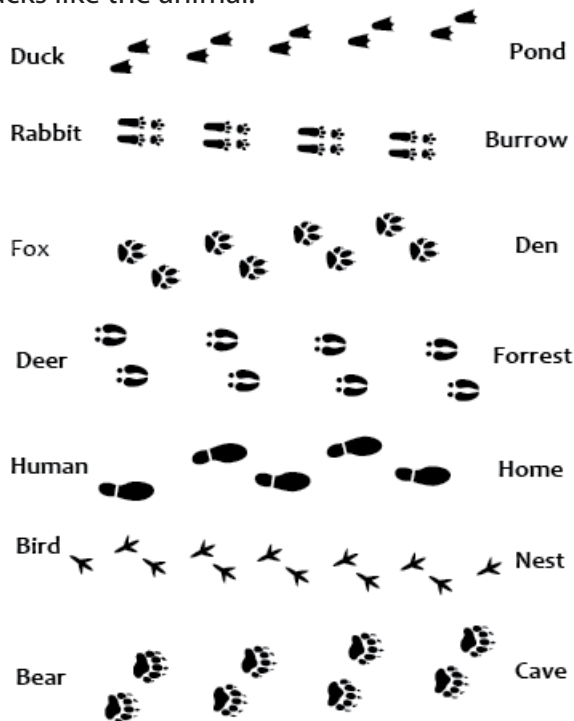
Science Connection

Tracks to Home

Match animals to their tracks and follow the tracks home.

1. Identify the animals in I Heart You and discuss the different types of animal homes.
2. Show students what animal tracks look like.
3. Ask the students to try stepping like different animals.
4. Show students pictures of different animal homes.
5. Invite students to trace their finger along the animal tracks from the animal to their home.

FURTHER INSTRUCTION: Cut out larger sized animal footprints and allow children to walk along the larger tracks like the animal.



Music Connection

Familiarize yourself with the Folk Song, Skidamarink.

Children enjoy keeping the beat to this song. Invite them to pat, snap, or tap on the beat.

On "I heart you," students can:

- 1) Point to themselves (on I).
- 2) Make a heartshape with hands (on heart).
- 3) Point to each other (on you).

Skidamarink

American Folk Song

Skidamarink a-dink a-dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I heart you.

Skidamarink a-dink a-dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I heart you.

I heart you in the morning
And in the afternoon,
I heart you in the evening
And underneath the moon...

Oh, Skidamarink a dink a dink,
Skidamarink a doo,
I heart you!

(... and you... and you!)

Snack Pack! Using Snack Time to Connect to the Story

Heart Bagels or Graham Crackers

- Spread cream cheese on mini bagels or graham crackers.
- Using a heart-shaped cookie cutter, make an impression of a heart.
- Have children line the heart impression with raisins or mini chocolate chips.
- Enjoy! Children can eat till their heart's content!

About this Teaching Guide

This educators' guide was prepared by the author, Meg Fleming. Much of the contents of this guide were the result of Meg's school visits. The social-emotional elements were born out of big and important questions prompted by children. These discussions matter.

Prior to writing full time, Meg was a certified K-12 Music Teacher. She has over 25 years of experience working with children and young adults in both classroom and studio settings. The purpose of this guide is to serve as a helpful tool and springboard for teachers, librarians, and storytime enthusiasts.

Please share this guide with fellow book lovers and teachers. If distributing or sharing on social media or elsewhere, please give the author, Meg Fleming, credit for the lessons, and please give the illustrator, Sarah Jane Wright, credit for the illustrations. Meg Fleming and Sarah Jane Wright can be found on Instagram, Pinterest, Facebook, and Twitter.

I Heart You is published by Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster. It will be available in board book format in December 2019.



★Fleming coaxes remarkable emotion out of three-word sentences in a lovely debut, constructing poetic mini-narratives involving parent-child pairs. Working in pencil and gouache, Wright creates an enchanting rural landscape, concluding with gentle scenes of a mother and daughter watching fireflies fill the air.

– [Publishers Weekly](#) *STARRED REVIEW*

The love is palpable in these pages, and adults and children will surely talk about their own ways of loving after sharing this.

– [Kirkus Reviews](#)

A wonderful choice that will be most appreciated by those looking for a tender family read.

– [School Library Journal](#)

Common Core Standards: Reading- R.1, R.3, R.7, R.10 Literacy- R.2, R.4, R.5, L.5, RL.1, RL.3, RI.5 Speaking and Listening- SL.1, SL.2, SL.4, SL.5 Language- L.1, L.4, L.5, L.6

Next Generation Science Standards: K-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, K-ESS-2

Social Emotional Learning Standards:

CASEL Core SEL Competencies- Social Awareness, Relationship Skills. Illinois 1A.1a, 2A.1b, Ohio A1.2.a, A1.3.a, B1.2.a, C1.2.a, D1.1.a