

# How We Say I Love You



## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Cooking, Family, Love

**Book Brief:** An Asian-American girl shares how her family expresses love for one another through actions rather than words.

**Author:**  
Nicole Chen

**Illustrator:**  
Larry Wen

## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ LET'S LOOK AT...



**The Cover:** Read the title of the book, then ask students to help you count the people on the cover. Ask, “What do you notice about the people on the cover? Who do you think they might be?” Have students make predictions about what will happen in the book based on the title and the cover.

**Picture Walk:** Flip through some pages and ask students what they think is going to happen in the book. Share with students that the story talks a lot about love. Ask,

“Do you see any ways that the people might show love in the story?”

**Vocabulary:** Review these family words using the Picture Vocabulary Cards: *family, mom/mommy, dad/daddy, parents, grandpa, grandma, grandparents*. Ask students if they know of words in their home language(s) that mean the same thing as these words.

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read, think about what the author wants to teach us about the different ways families show love for each other.”

## WHILE WE READ

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

Throughout, pause and ask...

- **Level 1:** “In this picture the family is showing their love by \_\_\_\_\_. Does your family show love this way? (Physical responses e.g., nodding, thumbs up, etc.)”
- **Level 2:** “What are the ways the girl and her family show each other love?”
- **Level 3:** “How do you show your family that you love them?”
- **Level 4:** “Why do you think the girl’s family uses actions to show their love, instead of just saying I love you?”

## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Ask, “What did we learn about different ways families show love for each other?” Families can show and say that they love each other in lots of different ways.

**Extending Thinking:** Ask, “What is something that you will do today to show someone you love them?”

### BOOK ACTIVITY:

#### LOVE Art

The word “love” appears many times in the story. It is also a word that many young students recognize and are excited to write. Look to see how many times you can find the word “love” in the book. What letters are in the word “love?” Show students the word love written on a piece of paper. Have students use painter’s tape to recreate the letters on paper. Then, use art materials (watercolors, crayons, markers, etc.) to fill the paper with color.

After that, students can peel off the painter’s tape to create their own “love” word art to give to someone they love. Have students draw a picture underneath their word art of how their family shows and receives love.

LOVE