

Honored to Help: A Story About Military Separation

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Family, Helpfulness, Military Families, Resilience, Separation Anxiety

Book Brief: Zeyiah's dad is leaving for deployment, and she misses him a lot. While he is away, she discovers that helping her mom take care of her little brother and doing chores around the house makes her feel strong and proud.

Authors:

Marta Drew

Photographer:

Frannie Wilson



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the story based on the cover.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice about Zeyiah and her family.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Can you think of a time when you had to help out more around the house?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, follow Zeyiah's journey as she steps up to help her family while her father is away on deployment. Pay attention to the choices she makes and how those choices affect the people around her and the story."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Who do you think is honored to help? Why?
- How does Zeyiah feel about her parents, and how do they each show their love for her?
- How do you think Zeyiah feels about her father leaving? How do you know?



Think Aloud: "I notice that Zeyiah gets smiles and honors the U.S. Air Force by putting her hand over her heart while helping outside. This shows she is respectful of those who serve and proud that her father is in the Air Force."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "Zeyiah enjoyed helping out at home while her father was away. How did she help out at home, and what did it make her realize?"

Extending Our Thinking: "Zeyiah helped her mother at home while her father was deployed. Using [RIF's Writing Template](#), have students write about one way they can help out at home, just like Zeyiah."

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles about military families.
 - [H is for Honor: A Military Family Alphabet](#) (2006)
 - [Anna & Natalie](#) (2007)
 - [Rags: Hero Dog of WWI](#) (2014)