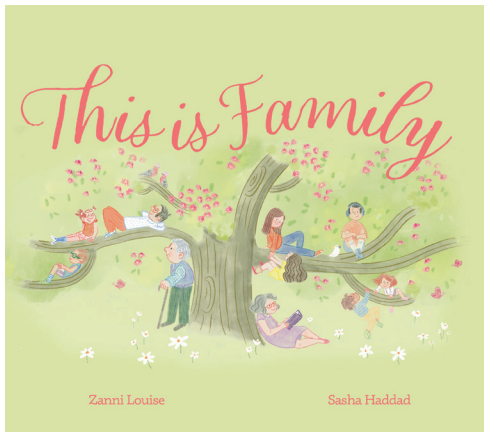




Teacher Notes

This is Family

by Zanni Louise, illustrated by Sasha Haddad

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh

Publication details

Publisher: Affirm Press
ISBN: 9781923022294
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Reader ages: 3-7 years

Themes

- Family
- Friendship
- Love
- Support

About the Book

Family's warm, like hot buttered toast.

Family's here when you need them most.

Family are the people (and animals!) who love you. Whether your family is big or small, near or far, related or not, they are there for you through life's ups and downs.

From Zanni Louise and Sasha Haddad comes a heartfelt ode to families.

About the Author and Illustrator

Zanni Louise has been writing stories since she was little, growing up in country NSW. She now lives with her family of four in the Byron Bay hinterland. Zanni has written more than thirty kids' books, spanning picture books, chapter books and books for 10-12 year-olds. She is proud to be an author ambassador for Room To Read, an organisation helping to educate children.

Sasha Haddad started working as a professional illustrator in 2014, right after her graduation from the Cambridge School of Arts (UK). She has since illustrated over 16 children's books as well as covers for magazines and various brand work for companies in Lebanon and the Arab region. Sasha lives and works in Greece.

Before Reading

- The title of the book is *This is Family*. What is family to you?
- Compare your thoughts to the cover illustration and make some predictions about how the book might see family.
- What else do you notice about the cover illustration?

Comprehension questions

- When is family here?
- Who might be in a family?
- What are some of the activities that families do together?
- Look at the illustrations in the book – what do you observe about the families in them?
- What are some of the things that bring families together?
- According to the book, what can families be sure of (even when they fight)?
- What is ‘the deal’?
- How would you describe the expressions of the people in the family at the end of the book? What does this tell you about their family?

Literacy

- **Smilies**
 - A simile is when we say that one thing is ‘like’ another. Writers often use similes to help them make an abstract idea or emotion more concrete.
 - In the story, the author says that family is ‘like hot buttered toast’. What does this tell you about family?
 - Can you come up with your own simile to describe your family?
- **Rhyme**
 - The author has written this as a rhyming story. How else could they have told this story? Why do you think they’ve chosen to make it rhyme? Underline the words in the text that rhyme and see if you can identify the rhyming pattern that the author has followed.
 - Compare this to the rhymes you’ve seen in other stories or in poems. How is the rhythm different?
 - Use the rhyming pattern that you’ve identified in the book to write your own short rhyme.

Final reflections

- How is your family similar or different to the families shown in the book?
- What would you add to this story if you were the author?
- If you were to say this book is about one thing, what would it be?

Creative Activities

- In the book’s cover illustration, the family is in a tree. But family trees are also a useful tool to map the people in our family (you can use this to map chosen, adopted and/or biological family). Create your own family tree – think about how you’re going to illustrate and connect all of the people in your family.
- Sometimes we don’t know as much about the people in our family as we think. Choose someone in your family and conduct a short interview with them. Write down one new thing you’ve discovered about them next to a picture of them (a photo or one you’ve drawn!).
- Does your family have a particular tradition or routine that you like to do together? Draw a picture that captures this time you spend together. How would you describe what you’re doing to someone else?
- What does family mean to you? Write as many endings as you can to the phrase
 - ‘Family is.....’
- How are your responses different to your classmate’s?