



Bobby's Books

Book: Love You Forever

Possible Themes: Continuity, love, change

Publisher, Publishing Date and ISBN Number: Firefly Books, 1986, 0-920668-37-2

Author: Robert Munsch

Illustrator: Sheila McGraw

Recommended Age of Child: Ages 5-Adult

Description of Book:

A young woman holds her newborn son and looks at him lovingly. Softly she sings to him, "I'll love you forever." She still sings the same song when her baby has turned into a fractious 2-year-old, a slovenly 9-year-old, a raucous teen, and then a grown man. She sings the same song until one day the roles are reversed. Colorfully illustrated, this book shares the story of the enduring nature of a mother's love.

Quote from Book:

"A mother held her new baby and very slowly rocked him back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. And while she held him, she sang: I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always, As long as I'm living my baby you'll be."

Lesson Plan Ideas:

- Discuss life stages. Put the word "baby" and "Grandparent" on opposite sides of a whiteboard or chalkboard. Discuss with the students the different names we give for the different stages we all go through as we live life, i.e. toddler, child, teenager, etc. Choose some describing words to put with the different stages that you have named.
- Discuss the repetition and exaggeration. Decide at what point the story turns from being funny to being serious. Why?
- Go back to the chart. Use a different color marker or chalk to write under the stages that Munsch used in his book, the incidents that the boy took part in. Discuss other people they know who are in the different stages and the things that they do.
- The mother loved her child even when he drove her crazy. How do you drive others crazy? Write a paragraph about some things that drive YOU crazy.
- Why do you think the man stopped at the top of the stairs? What was he thinking about?
- What kind of a parent will the boy become? Why?
- Write a song that follows the pattern of the song in the book. Have each child write it for the person they are missing. Volunteers may need to assist younger children.
- Study the illustrations to see what things are usually with the boy. What two things are important to him? ...the cat, and his teddy bear...
- The mother had many pictures of her son on her bedroom wall. Draw a picture of yourself. Try to make it look like the illustrations created by Sheila McGraw. Use colored pencils.

Materials Needed: whiteboard or chalkboard, markers or chalk, writing and drawing materials
Musical instruments or a keyboard could be used to choose a rhythm or simple melody.