



Mama, Do You Love Me?

by Barbara Joosse
Illustrated By Barbara Lavallee

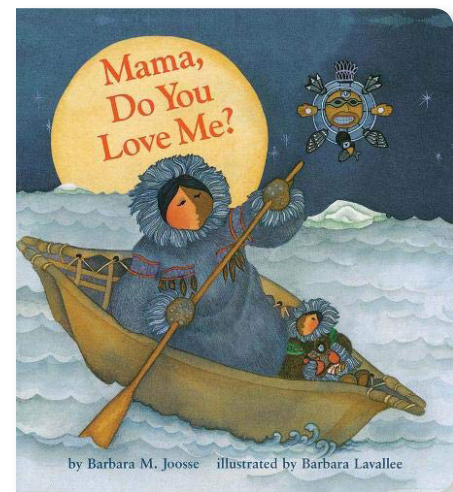
Before We Read: Introduce the Book

- Suggested scripted text for readers is indicated in italics with the lesson. Feel free to adapt as you wish.
- The **Now We Read** and **After We Read** sections include suggested instructions in brackets for readers.

- *The name of this book is Mama, Do You Love Me? Barbara M. Joosse wrote the words. It was illustrated by Barbara Lavallee. That means she made the pictures.*
- *The most important people in the story are a little girl and her mother. The people in stories are called characters.*
- *The little girl is asking her mother a question that is important to her. You may want to think of the things you ask your mother or father or other people in your family.*

[Explain to your class that this little girl and her mother live in the far, far north, near the Arctic Circle– on the way to the North Pole. Share the location on a map if one is available. Also ask or show children where they live. Some may be able to point this out on the map.]

- *Most native Arctic people call themselves “Inuit,” which means “The People.” This story shows the way some native people live in the Arctic.*
- *Look carefully at the illustrations, and you might see some things you have never seen before. Are the clothes different from things you might wear? Are there things you would never see in your house? Things you wouldn’t see where you live? Look at the book cover. Is this how your mother takes you to school? These are all things children who live in the Arctic might see every day.*
- *We will talk about these things after the story.*



Now We Read: Read the Book

You may wish to take a picture walk before reading the story—turning to each page slowly, and giving students who want to do so the chance to make comments.

- ➔ Depending upon the class, children may not be able to contain their curiosity about designs on clothing, clothing styles, masks, mittens and boots, Arctic animals, and so on.
 - *Children are sure to have many questions as you read or share the pictures during a picture walk. You may wish to share parts of the glossary before reading, or save this until after the reading, or for another day.*
 - *There is a glossary at the end of the book to tell us about some of the things we will be seeing in the pages of this book. We can learn more about what we are reading by checking the glossary.*

After We Read: Talk about the Book

Talk to the students about the story. Ask them their feelings and things they noticed. Encourage them to share their ideas about the story and the illustrations.

- *Think about the pictures and the story. What did you learn about the little girl and her mother?*
- *When the little girl asked her mother “Mama, do you love me?,” what kinds of things did her mother say? How do you think the little girl feels about the way her mother answers her questions? Why?*
- *Did you see any interesting things in the pictures? Some things you might not have seen before? Tell us about them.*
- *Are there things in your home that an Inuit child might not have ever seen before? What are those things?*
- *How does the story turn out?*
- *Can you think of something you learned from this story or something that you especially enjoyed?*

Optional Activities

- Prepare construction paper by folding a piece in half to make a “book” For each child. Let children know they may draw a cover that shows what the story was about.
- When they open their papers, they will see two parts. On the left-hand side, they can draw things that they noticed in the story. They may want to draw things they have never seen before. On the right-hand side, they may draw things they want to show: the place where they live, things in their house or yard that an Inuit child may not have ever seen.
- Children’s art may be placed on walls or a bulletin board, showing different parts of their “books.”
- Children can act out their own ideas about the story. Assign partners. One can be the mother (or other family member), and one can be the child. They can act out their ideas, being free to change things up to their liking .