



# HOW DO I LOVE THEE?

BY JENNIFER ADAMS

ILLUSTRATED BY  
CHRISTOPHER SILAS NEAL

## ABOUT THE BOOK

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.”

Whether in soft sunlight or rain-drizzled night or winter’s frost-etched breath, three children share the love and joy of friendship while exploring the wonders of nature.

Bestselling author Jennifer Adams has reimagined Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s beloved “Sonnet 43,” best known by its opening lines, creating a lyrical, evocative ode to the love of family and friends. Christopher Silas Neal brings the poetry to life with his beautiful and imaginative illustrations.

## STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

• **LET ME COUNT THE WAYS:** Give the children a page that says at the top, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.” Then have the children write a poem to a friend or family member. They should include all of the reasons why they care about this person, and all of the ways they can spend time together. They should add an illustration of themselves with this person.

• **SUNSET SILHOUETTE:** Share the last page of the story and discuss how the illustrator painted a beautiful evening sky with the houses silhouette against it. Then have the children use watercolors to paint a sunset or evening sky on a piece of paper. Their painting should fill the whole paper. While it is drying, the children should cut out silhouettes from black paper. (They can cut out houses and trees to make a neighborhood picture, or they can cut buildings and skyscrapers to make a city silhouette.) When their painting has dried, they should glue their silhouettes onto the sunset background.

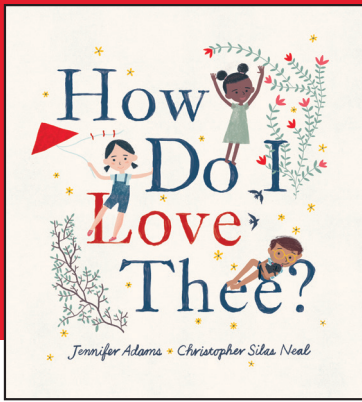
Display these striking pictures so the children can admire each other’s artwork.

• **IN SEASON:** In the fall, the children in this story play in the leaves. In the winter, they go sledding and build a snowman. Ask the children to describe their favorite activity in each season. Have them create a picture divided into four quadrants or complete a 4-page booklet showing what they enjoy doing in each of the four seasons.

• **POETRY PARTY:** The author includes a note at the end of the book explaining that the famous poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote the poem on which this book is based. Provide the children with a collection of poems for them to read. (There are many wonderful poets for children, including Jack Prelutsky, Mary Ann Hoberman, Shel Silverstein, Naomi Shihab Nye, Lillian Hoban, Nikki Giovanni, and Judith Viorst.) Ask the children to choose their favorite poem to share with the group. Have a poetry party with poetry readings and refreshments to celebrate these wonderful poems.

• **I CARE:** Discuss how the children in this book show that they care for each other (e.g., they hold hands, they play together, they share). Brainstorm a list of ways to show kindness and caring for others. Ask the children to choose an act of kindness to perform. Follow up a week later. Did they complete their act of kindness? How did it make them feel?

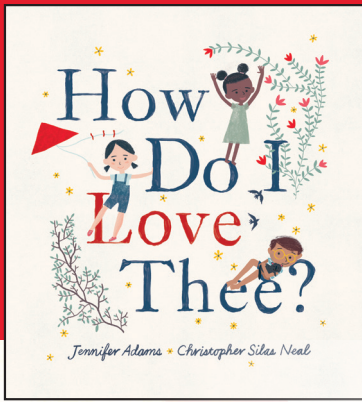




# BEING FRIENDS WITH THEE

*How Do I Love Thee?* shows children sharing the love and joy of friendship while exploring nature. Draw a picture of you and your friends playing outside in the space below!





# LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.” Think of someone you love—a friend or someone in your family. Write down some reasons why you love this person and the ways you can spend time together.

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