



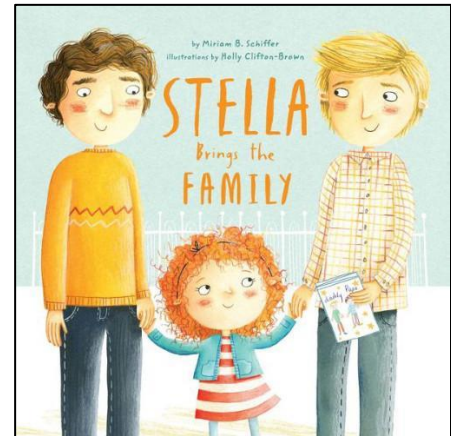
DIVERSE FAMILIES ON MOTHER'S & FATHER'S DAYS

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: K – 2

LENGTH OF TIME: 30 to 35 minutes

GOALS

- To help children from diverse family structures feel affirmed in the classroom.
- To explore and embrace the reality that there are many different kinds of families and family structures.
- To develop more inclusive practices around celebrating Mother's and Father's Days.



OBJECTIVES

- Students will develop empathy and acceptance for diverse families.
- Students will see mirrors and windows with regard to family diversity.
- Students will acquire the vocabulary to talk about LGBTQ families.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1: Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. (Also K.1 and 1.1)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3: Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. (Also K.3 and 1.3)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area. (Also K.4 and 1.4)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7: Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting or plot. (Also K.7 and 1.7)

EDUCATORS' NOTES

As you prepare to read the story, consider the composition of your classroom and the different kinds of families represented in it. It is our job as teachers to both mirror students' lives to them so they can develop healthy identities as well as provide students with windows into other lives so that they become global citizens that embrace differences. It is important to teach your students about many different kinds of families, whether those particular families are present in your school or not. Take a look at the Welcoming Schools handout [*Diverse Families on Mother's Day and Father's Day*](#) for ideas on ways to be inclusive of all children in your class and their families.

Note that if, for example, you have only one student in your class with same-gender parents, be mindful not to put that student in the position of teaching other children about their family. That is the job of the educator, not the student.

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Stella's class is having a Mother's Day celebration, but what's a girl with two daddies to do? It's not that she doesn't have someone who helps her with her homework or tucks her in at night. Stella has her Papa and Daddy who take care of her and a whole group of other loved ones who support her every day. She just doesn't have a mom to invite to the party. Fortunately, Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Stella Brings the Family* by Miriam B. Schiffer
- [*Diverse Families on Mother's Day and Father's Day*](#) (optional resource)

READING STELLA BRINGS THE FAMILY

- Pre-Reading Questions
 - What do you see and notice on the cover of the book?
 - What do you think the book might be about?
- Ask a few discussion questions periodically throughout the reading to check for comprehension and keep the students engaged:
 - What did Stella realize about the Mother's Day celebration? (page 6)
 - Why did Jonathan tell Stella she should invite her other family members? (page 13)
 - Why do you think Mrs. Abbott was so tired at the end of the day? (page 23)
- Discussion Questions After Reading
 - What happened in the story?
 - How did Stella feel when her teacher, Mrs. Abbott, announced that they were going to have a special celebration for Mother's Day? Why did Stella feel that way? If you were Stella, how would you feel?
 - Why did Stella's friends ask her who packs her lunch, reads her bedtime stories and kisses her when she is hurt?
 - What advice would you give Stella about who to bring to the Mother's Day celebration? Who did Stella bring and why?
 - What other kinds of families were in Stella's class?
 - Is there anything you think Mrs. Abbott could have done differently to make everyone feel included?
 - What is the message of the story?
- Additional Discussion Questions After Reading
 - What do you think will happen on Father's Day?
 - What do you think Howie, who has two moms, will do on Father's Day?

EXTENSION

- Write and illustrate additional pages of the book. In the last scene of the book, Stella leaves school with her two dads after telling her teacher not to worry about Father's Day because she wouldn't bring as many people.
 - Read aloud the last few pages of the book and ask students: What do you think might happen next in the story if it were to continue? What do you think Stella, Papa and Daddy do when they get home? What do they talk about? How do you think Mrs. Abbott will prepare the class for Father's Day? How does Howie, who has two moms, feel and what does he do?
 - Have students imagine what would happen in the book if it continued.
 - Instruct them to take their ideas and write and/or draw the next scene or two as they imagine it.
 - When completed, students can share their drawings and pages of the book with the rest of the class, and you can invite family members in for a whole class reading.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

- Listen for student responses to your questions throughout the book.
- Are the students incorporating the vocabulary and concepts?
- Are the students forming connections to other families and recognizing and affirming differences? Do you need to bring in more books about diverse families to expand this concept?

ADDITIONAL BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio. Rigoberto Gonzales.

Families. Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly.

Families, Families, Families! Suzanne and Max Lang.

The Family Book. Todd Parr.

Heather Has Two Mommies (25th Anniversary Edition). Lesléa Newman.

A Tale of Two Daddies. Vanita Oelschlager.

DIVERSE AND UP-TO-DATE RESOURCES FROM WELCOMING SCHOOLS

[Children's Books to Embrace Family Diversity](#)

[Lesson Plans to Embrace Family Diversity](#)

[Embracing Family Diversity School Resources](#)

[Yes, They Are a Family!](#)

[Family Diversity Vocabulary](#)

[Professional Development Training](#)

Credit: Adapted from [Anti-Defamation League Book of the Month](#), *Stella Brings the Family*.