

In Our Mothers' House

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Family, Growing Up, Love

Grade Level: 1st to 3rd grade

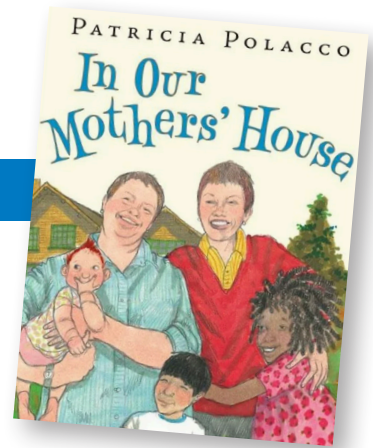
Book Brief: Marmee and Meema have a house full of laughter and their kids grow up feeling loved. One neighbor doesn't accept the family but that doesn't get in the way of a strong and happy relationship and community.

Author:

Patricia Polacco

Illustrator:

Patricia Polacco



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Talk to your child about the many ways happy and healthy families are formed. Emphasize that even though families may look different from one another, all family structures are valid.

While reading, make connections: Each time you read something about the family and their activities that is familiar to you and your child, talk about the things you share with the family in the book

After reading, ask questions:

- How did Marmee and Meema create their family?
- What were some of the best things about this family?
- What were some of the ways the family showed care and love?
- Who lived in the mothers' house after they were gone?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

FAMILY PORTRAIT

Materials: Paper, drawing supplies, writing utensil.

The author and illustrator of *In Our Mothers' House* describe each family member in words and pictures. With your child, draw a family portrait, like the image in Meema and Marmee's kitchen, showing something your family likes to do together. Then, write descriptions of each family member that celebrate who they are, just like the author did for Meema and Marmee on those pages showing the kitchen.



CARING LIST

Materials: Paper, writing utensil

The family in *In Our Mothers' House* shows they care about each other in ordinary ways throughout the book. Start a list with your child about all the things members of your family do to show that same level of caring (e.g., helping to sort laundry, offering a hug, leaving a hall light on at night). Keep adding things to the list as you notice and think of new ways you show you care.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS ABOUT HOME:

- **Jingle Dancer (2000)**
- **All Families Are Special (2003)**
- **Some Kind of Love (2010)**