



Honey, I Love and Other Love Poems

Eloise Greenfield , Diane Dillon , Leo Dillon

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An ALA Notable Children's Book, *Honey, I Love and Other Love Poems* includes sixteen poems that tell of love and the simple joys of everyday life, seen through the eyes of a child: playing with a friend, skipping rope, riding on a train—or keeping Mama company till Daddy gets back.

Each of these sixteen "love poems" is spoken straight from the perspective of a child. Riding on a train, listening to music, playing with a friend...each poem elicits a new appreciation of the rich content of everyday life. The poems are accompanied by both portrait and panorama drawings that deepen the insights contained in the words.

This beloved book of poetry is a *Reading Rainbow* Selection and the winner of George C. Stone Center for Children's Books' Recognition of Merit Award.

Honey, I Love and Other Love Poems Details

Date : Published May 23rd 1986 by HarperCollins (first published 1978)

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Author : Eloise Greenfield , Diane Dillon , Leo Dillon

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From Reader Review Honey, I Love and Other Love Poems for online ebook

Zilha B. says

"Honey, I Love

I love

I love a lot of things, a whole lot of things

Like

My cousin comes to visit and you know he's from the South

Cause every word he says just kind of slides out of his mouth

I like the way he whistles and I like the way he walks

But honey. let me tell you that I LOVE the way he talks

I love the way my cousin talks

and

The day is hot and icky and the sun sticks to my skin

Mr. Davis turns the hose on, everybody jumps right in

The water stings my stomach and I feel so nice and cool

Honey, let me tell you that I LOVE a flying pool

I love to feel a flying pool

and

Renee comes out to play and brings her doll without a dress

I make a dress with paper and that doll sure looks a mess

We laugh so loud and long and hard the doll falls to the ground

Honey, let me let you that I LOVE the laughing sound

I love to make the laughing sound

and

My uncle's car is crowded and there's lots of food to eat

We're going down the country where the church folks like to meet

I'm looking out the window at the cows and trees outside

Honey. let me tell you that I LOVE to take a ride

I love to take a family ride

and

My mama's on the sofa sewing buttons on my coat

I go and sit beside her. I'm through playing with my boat

I hold her arm and kiss it cause it feels so soft and warm

Honey, let me tell you that I LOVE my mama's arm

I love to kiss my mama's arm

and

It's not so late at night, but still I'm lying in my bed

I guess I need my rest. at least that's what my mama said

She told me not to cry 'cause she don't want to hear a peep

Honey, let me tell you I DON'T love to go to sleep

I do not love to go to sleep

But I love

I love a lot of things, a whole lot of things

And honey, I love you. too"

I absolutely love this poem. It has become one of my favorites. This poem is about a young girl who describes everything she loves. Eloise Greenfield, the author, does a wonderful job of repetition and rhyming in this poem. The repeated phrase “Honey, let me tell you that I LOVE,” is so catchy and refreshing. She used the repeated phrase with the rhyming very well in this poem. The phrase is catchy and memorable. I still remember being read this poem like it was yesterday because of the catchy phrase.

I would definitely use this poem as a mentor text in my classroom. I think that students would love to use “honey, I love” or “honey, let me tell you that I LOVE” in their poems. I know I sure did. I remember writing my own piece of “honey, I love” in my poem. I think that students would really enjoy it and use it in their writing, and share it as well.

Gabriella says

An inspiring book of love, self identity, and the joys of everyday life. The poems in this book are simply beautiful. Sixteen poems told through the perspective of a child doing exactly what children are supposed to do, enjoy life! Including tidbits of history and background on African American culture, this book sings off the pages and is one that should be read aloud!

Brittany White says

This book of poetry provides text-to-self, as well as text-to-world connections. Through this text, readers will feel Greenfield's appreciation for life. I would read a poem or two from this book whenever my students need a pick-me-up. A few of these poems could be used as a teacher pick-me-up as well :)

Kara Buchholz says

Summary

Honey, I love and other love poems is a short poetry book containing sixteen individual poems. Each poem is told from a child's point of view. Each of the poems has something that a child would talk about and how the child would feel and even see a certain concept, topics as simple as: playing with friends, jumping rope, riding on a train, visiting family, and even music! Each poem also is accompanied with illustrations, each illustration includes a portrait of a child and then drawings from a child as well.

The poems all have a hint of innocence in them, which can very easily bring an adult reader back to childhood or connect to the younger readers quite efficiently. The grammar in the book helps the reader know that this book takes place in the South and of course, by a young child. The book shows the reader the smaller things in life and how important they are, especially from a child's eyes, something everyone must never forget.

Response

This book is deserving of four stars because of its ability to connect to younger readers in such a meaningful and accurate way, along with interesting the adult reader. The author also does an amazing job with making the words speak. For example in the poem Riding on the Train, the last sentence the phrase “I am getting sleepy.” The word sleepy trails off as if the child is beginning to doze off.

The language is also suited for the younger reader, especially with some sentences spoken in a child's voice. For example, in the poem Harriet Tubman:

“ Harriet Tubman didn’t take no stuff
Wasn’t scared of nothing neither...”

One of the reasons why I did not give the book the full five stars is because stated in (TMY pg. 9) this book could confuse some children, (even though it is told through a child’s eye). I feel that some children may have not experienced some things as the child in the book has such as riding on a train, appreciating music, or the slavery connection.

Personally though, I loved and enjoyed reading this book, it was very cute and simple but yet complex in the way you had to remember the simple things in life ?

Classroom Connection

Some of the ways that a teacher could connect this book with a class would be to have a lesson on slavery since that is one of the main topics in a poem. The teacher can explain to the students where it was started and why and how some of the slaves escaped and how some did not. Along with what the slaves actually did and the bad treatment that they had received from the white man. Another topic would be to do social studies and show the trades ways through countries and states. Another connection that would be more personal is having the students write their own poems on what they love and draw pictures along with the poems on how they see things!

Text Complexity

This book is a NP Lexile/GR level M. Interest level grade 3-5.

Deana says

This is without contest my favorite book of poetry. Currently reprinted in its 25th Anniversary year “Honey I love and other love poems” is a childhood classic. Leo and Diane Dillon’s illustrations became as much a part of my experience as Greenfield’s words. I remember jumping rope to the driving rhythm in “Rope Rhyme.” The meter of the poem translates effortlessly into the singsong cadence of a jump rope rhyme so, “Get set ready now jump right in, bounce and kick and giggle and spin.

Johna Brown says

“Honey, I love” is a poem written by Eloise Greenfield. I used this poem to represent poetry in my list of genres. This poem was listed in a book with many different poems. I like the fact that this one rhymed and had a lot of repetitive phrases. It is written in a young girl’s perspective and I loved it! The little girl explained the things that she loves like her cousin’s southern accent, playing in the sprinklers, and her mother’s arm. The illustrations in this book represented the girl’s emotions very well. I like how the author uses her voice to speak to me in this poem. The attitude and tone that the author uses reminds me of a Southern accent. When I listen to the words in this poem, it speaks to my soul because I consider myself Southern as well. My professor read it with the same attitude and tone that I imagined from the little girl. I think when reading this poem; the reader has to have the right tone. Otherwise, it will not capture the audience’s attention. The author used a craft such as voice to get the readers attention while listening to this poem. Eloise did a great job using voice as a craft in this poem because she made me feel like I was listening to a real person reading this. I understood the words very clear. As I read the poem, I could hear a sassy little girl saying these words; “Honey”, let me tell you that I LOVE a flying pool.” I could use voice as a tool to teach writing in my classroom. I would read this poem aloud to my students to show them how the author used her personality to speak to them. The students will be asked to write a poem about something or someone that they love. In this poem they must use their voices and personalities to touch the reader. I will

choose two students to share their work.

AmandaF says

Honey, I Love and Other Love poems is a ALA Notable Children's book. It has sixteen poems that express love throughout everyday experiences that we go through. It is told from the perspective of a child. Poems about jump roping, a ride on the train, things, what we look like, Harriet Tubman and other individuals. This could be read to children ages 8 to 15. There was a poem that rhymed and a poem with repetitive phrases. The illustrations also represents the young girls emotions and feelings. I love the fact that it is written in the perspective of a young girl! This is such a great book.

Julie says

Before the age of 10, I wanted two things: to marry Barry Gibb of the *Bee Gees* and to have my own afro.

Neither childhood dream came true.

Turns out Barry Gibb was, like, 30 years older than I was (and already on his second marriage) and I was a white girl with hair the texture of gossamer. No afro for me.

But, when I pulled this precious, palm-sized book of poetry out of the Amazon box this morning, I gasped at the little girl of color on the cover and then squealed over and over again with joy at every illustration inside of a little girl and her powerful afro.

To me, achieving a truly great afro is right up there with being able to claim you once spotted a narwhal or a unicorn.

I think, given my early obsession with both Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou, I really and truly thought I would grow up to be a black (or Italian) adult, but, alas, I remained a skinny white girl with ancestors from the British Isles.

But that's okay, too, especially given that I can now tap into my inner brown child with Ms. Greenfield's very approachable and rhythmic verse.

With this collection, I can summon 1978 and every dream afro I never had as I read now to my daughters:

*The day is hot and icky and the sun sticks to my skin
Mr. Davis turns the hose on, everybody jumps right in
The water stings my stomach and I feel so nice and cool
Honey, let me tell you that I LOVE a flying pool.*

And:

*Love don't mean all that kissing
Like on television
Love means Daddy
Saying keep your mama company
till I get back*

And me doing it.

What an important and empowering collection of kid's poetry this must have been in 1978.

This is some afro-loving, girl-promoting, gold, black and white glory!

Faith Barron says

This is such a great book. It is about a young girl who writes poems about all the things that she loves. This is a great book because in the sixteen poems it gives student a different point of view when it comes to poetry. Honey, I love is also a great way to teach about poetry and repetition.

I have never been a huge fan of poetry but having been read these poems I am slowly changing my mind. Honey, I Love are such wonderful kid friendly poems. The author does a great job of using repetition and rhyming. Repeating the phrase, "Honey, let me tell you that I LOVE" just continuously reiterates what all these poems are about. I think this would be a wonderful mentor text because students would be interested because it shows that poems can be interesting. Giving them the chance to write a poem on all the things that they love is a great idea.

Cheryl says

Sorry I can't say anything useful, or even pick a favorite poem. The recent picture-book Honey, I Love is fine, but this, with 15 other poems and art by the Dillons, is well-nigh perfect. Why have I not already read it... why was it not taught when I was in teacher-training two decades ago?

If you've not read it, do so now, especially if you're a teacher or a parent of young children.

Nicole Gonzalez says

A little girl expresses her most favorable memories through the art of poetry. In her poems she talks about her wonders, enjoyments, and the people who have inspired her. The illustrations around the poems portray the little girl's feeling on how she felt when she wrote the poems.

One of the poems that I liked from Honey, I Love is:

"Moochie likes to keep on playing
The same old silly game
Peeka Boo!
Peeka Boo!
I get tired of it
But it makes her laugh
And every time she laughs
She gets the hiccups
And every time she gets the hiccups
I laugh"(n.p.)

I liked this poem because it reminds me of my brother and sister. No matter how silly or embarrassing something is, I always do it just to make them happy. This book reminds me of Locomotion and Honeybee. All three of the books talk about their memories written in a poem format whether they have a rhyming scheme or not.

I would use this book for a lesson when talking about slavery in the United States. I would have the student do a KWL chart on what they know about The Underground Railroad. I would then teach a lesson about The Underground Railroad. I would then break the students into groups and have them research famous African Americans. There will be five groups total and they will each either research Harriet Tubman, Levi Coffin, William Still, Sojourner Truth, or Frederick Douglass. Each group will have to compose a biography of the person for their group.

Lexile: could not find but I would suggest 551-600

Guided Reading Level: M

Grade Level: 3-5

Independent Reading: middle of fourth grade

Appropriate Read Aloud: third grade and up

Ch_hayley Medsker says

Honey, I Love by Eloise Greenfield is a collection of short poems. The simple and sweet poems about everyday things are from a child's perspective: playing with friends, dancing, personal thoughts, and family are all found in this book for kids aged 7-11. My favorite poem, Way Down in the Music, has such movement, "I get way down in the music, Down inside the music, I let it wake me, take me, spin me around and shake me. I get down, down, I get down." The collection contains black and white illustrations that beautifully portray the African American child and culture. This book contains emotion, it's relatable, and honest. While the setting was back in the 1970's, the same feelings and everyday childhood happenings are still present: sadness, happiness, and loneliness are common themes that travel through time. This book was so real, thoughtful, and precious. I have the perfect student in mind that I'll recommend it to!

Alta says

This book of poetry has a special place in my heart because we have read this book to my daughter since she was born. It is a book of poetry that seeks to offset the negative image of black people in the seventies by celebrating and showcasing the life of a black child. It is the kind of book that's just long enough for it to evoke emotion and bring back memories from my own childhood, but also short enough to accommodate a baby's two second attention span. The aspect of craft that Eloise Greenfield employs the best is the art of specificity. There was a poem in the book called I Look Pretty where a little girl dresses up in her mother's clothes and she describes how pretty she feels. I read that poem and it instantly took me back to when I was little and how I used to try on my mother's clothes and the good feeling that I felt when I would do so. If I were to integrate this text into a writing lesson, I might have my children write a poem that doesn't rhyme.

Qiana Whitted says

One of the loveliest children's books I have ever read.

Brandi Smith says

This collection of poetry is an ALA Notable Children's Book and was awarded the George C. Stone Center for Children's Books Recognition of Merit Award in 1990. The target audience is children ages 5-12(P-I), but this collection can easily be enjoyed by all.

The author uses the voice of a sweet and sassy little girl to talk about all of the great and small things she loves. The language is down to earth and comforting. The artists use a combination of intricate pen and ink sketches and childlike gouache to illustrate what the narrator sees and how she interprets those visions in her own artwork. This has been my favorite book of poems since first grade. If I could give it 6 stars I would! I would love to explore the gouache technique in an art lesson, using the artwork in this book for reference. In my opinion, this book should be made available in every possible format, but, alas, it is only available in print.
