

ART

1. Make Inuit paper dolls. Download pattern*, make copies for your class, have children draw and color faces, parkas, and boots. Glue cotton balls around hoods of parkas.
2. Together make "I love you this much"* cards for parents.
3. Make a parent/child collage to post in your classroom. Have children cut out magazine pictures of mothers and children from diverse cultures and paste on a sheet of poster board, overlapping the edges.

MUSIC/MOVEMENT

1. Listen to *Globalullabies* by Freyda during rest time.
2. Children sit facing each other in pairs, legs spread and feet touching. Hold hands and rock gently back and forth.

*Visit www.heartwoodethics.org and choose Resources, Pre-k/K for additional vignettes, downloadables, and other activities.

On Mother's Lap

Ann Herbert Scott
1992
New York, Clarion Books

JUSTICE

CONCEPTS

Justice
Love

SUMMARY

Michael, a young Inuit boy, enjoys rocking back and forth on Mother's lap. He snuggles with dolly, boat, and puppy under his reindeer blanket, but resists sharing Mother's lap with his baby sister. Michael soon discovers that Mother's lap and love can expand to include everyone. The artist's warm luminous illustrations enhance this universal childhood experience

OBJECTIVE

Children will learn about justice in sharing parents with siblings. They will become aware of the expansive quality of love.

(If possible, sit in a rocking chair as you read the story in the Heartwood Corner.)

PREVIEW

1. Read the title, show the cover and first page of the book, and explain that the story takes place in Alaska. Locate Alaska on the Heartwood Map Mat.
2. Together find JUSTICE on the Heartwood attribute poster.
3. Show contents of the Prop Box, such as a doll, boat, blanket, stuffed dog, Heartwood Map Mat, and a copy of *On Mother's Lap*.

READING

1. Read the story uninterrupted.
2. Have children hold and rock a favorite doll or stuffed toy as they listen to the story and together say the lines "Back and forth, back and forth, they rocked."
3. Read the story replacing "Father" for "Mother" and changing the words as needed.

After the Story**DISCUSSION**

At the beginning of the story Michael shares his lap with many others. Who or what are they? Why do you think he doesn't want to share his mother's lap with his baby sister? What does Michael learn about sharing and being fair?

ACTIVITIES

1. Play "Reverse Musical Chairs." Each time the music stops, children share the remaining chairs. When just a few chairs are remaining, children crowd around them. Everyone stays in the game.
2. Set up "Sharing Centers," such as an art center with two pairs of scissors for four children or a music center with a variety of instruments. Encourage children to find fair ways to share materials and afterwards tell the group about them.
3. Invite a grandparent to read stories to children in the rocking chair.

WRAP-UP

1. Play "Room for One More." Wearing a cape or shawl ask how many children would fit under it. Then one at a time ask children to join you until everyone is covered.
2. In *My Heartwood Journal* have children draw themselves on a chair or sofa with a favorite adult, siblings, and prized possessions.

EXTENSION

Children complete the Home Connection Page and teachers record their responses. Send these pages home to children's families.

Expressive Arts**DRAMA/LANGUAGE**

1. Prop Box: Use items in the box for retelling and acting out the story or for small group creative play.
2. Mini-Manners Plays*: With finger puppets, model sharing and fairness. For example:
Puppet 1: Your cookie looks good!
Puppet 2: Would you like half?
Puppet 1: Thank you!
Puppet 2: You're welcome!
3. Teach children to sign the word "justice."