



If Kisses Were Colors
By Janet Lawler

Curriculum Guide

A parent's love is compared to wonders of nature.

PRE-READING DISCUSSION

Show the book cover. Read the title out loud. What do you think this book will be about? What makes you think that? The picture? The words in the title?

What do you call the person who writes a book?

(The author of this book is Janet Lawler.)

What do you call the person who draws the pictures?

(The illustrator of this book is Alison Jay.)

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

Did you get a kiss today? Show of hands.

If you didn't get a kiss, make sure you tell someone you love that you need one before you go to bed. Everyone should get at least one kiss a day!

This book is about a parent's love for a child. The author compares her love to big, beautiful, and amazing wonders of nature.

DISCUSSION/PARTICIPATION WHILE READING TEXT

(Consider one reading straight through, then discussing page-by-page on 2nd reading)

Rainbow

Have you ever seen a rainbow?

When do you see one?

Why do you think the author wrote about a rainbow?

Remember, the author is writing about her love for her child.

Pebbles/Beach

Do you like to pick up pebbles (or shells) at the beach?

When you collect pebbles, it is fun to find many of them.

Is it fun getting lots of kisses, too?

Comets

Do you know what a comet is?

A comet is made of small pieces of ice, rock and gas. A comet moves around the sun.

Do you see the tails on the comets in the pictures?

The tail of a comet is actually little bits of the comet breaking away, blown by the strong winds of the sun.

Flowers

Do you know what a bouquet is?

Do you like flowers?

Name your favorite flower.

Raindrops

Can you count raindrops?

Have you ever had raindrops kiss your face?

Acorns

Do you know what an acorn is?

An acorn is the seed of an oak tree.

What is the acorn in this picture doing?

Blow a kiss to the children.

Can you all blow a kiss to me?

Snowflakes

What season is it in this picture?

Are the animals having fun?

What are they doing?

Can you see the acorn ice skating?

Do acorns really ice skate?

Illustrators can make up things and have fun drawing pictures to go with the author's words.

Blankets/Storm

Why do people use blankets?

Why do you think the author says kisses are like blankets?

Do you think the bunny feels safe and warm?

Do you have a favorite blanket? How does it make you feel?

Closing pages

Name the animals running across the rainbow.

What are they running toward?

What is the mother doing?

Does the baby look happy?

Why?

SUBJECT TIE-INS AND ACTIVITIES

Science

Explain how a rainbow is made.

A rainbow appears when sunlight reflects off millions of droplets of water in the air, usually after a rainstorm.

The colors of a rainbow are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo (dark blue), and purple. The light passing through the water droplets gets bent and separated at different angles so you can see each of these colors.

Share additional information about comets. Halley's Comet takes 76 years to make one circle (orbit) around the sun. It was seen from Earth in 1986. It will not be seen again until 2061. How old will you be in 2061? (Teacher can help with this one!)

Language Arts

The author compares kisses to other things, like pebbles, comets, etc.

This way of using a word in place of another, to show how they are alike, is called a metaphor.

Try to make up another kisses metaphor:

If kisses were cars, you would have a million mile traffic jam...

(this may be too difficult for the youngest audiences. You can help by making up the first part and seeing if the children can make up a logical ending.)

Art

Ask students if they like the pictures.

Ask if they noticed the "cracks" in the pictures. Explain that artists have different ways of drawing, painting, and making pictures.

Alison Jay uses a crackle glaze. After she paints the picture, she puts a finish on top to make it look cracked and old. But it really isn't old, it just looks that way. You can recognize her art in other books. (You can get several others from the library to show.)

Download a rainbow template from: http://www.coloringcastle.com/rainbow_coloring_pages.html

Have children color a rainbow. Cotton balls can be glued on at one end to represent clouds and children can draw, color and cut out a sun to glue on the other end.

To learn more about the author and her other books visit:

www.JanetLawler.com