The Daddy Shop
By Aleesah Darlison & Illustrated by Kelly O’Gara
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The Father and Son Picnic is coming up, but Daddy can’t go with Tai because he’s working. When Tai hears about The Daddy Shop, he takes matters into his own paws and tries out some new daddies. Around-the-House Daddy loves doing chores and Out-and-About Daddy plays all day long. But which daddy will be the best one for Tai? A big-hearted tale that celebrates daddies everywhere.

Themes:
• Parent/Child Relationships
• Love
• Modern Family
• Acceptance

Imagination
Problem Solving
Appreciation

Discussion Questions & Activities:
• Discuss the role of illustrations in picture books. Are there things we only learn from the illustrations, not from the text? Do they enhance the story? How?
• How is Tai’s family different from your family? How is his family the same as yours? Ask students to make a list of similarities and differences.
• The main characters in this story are a family of pandas. Why do you think Kelly O’Gara chose to draw bears instead of people?
• Ask students to research pandas. Where do they live in the world? What do they eat? Are pandas endangered? Ask students to make a poster answering these questions and present it to the class.
• Ask students to think about what their parents do in their jobs. Do their jobs sometimes prevent you from spending time together? How does this make you feel?
• Why do you think we don’t have shops where you can buy new mums and dads? Is this a good idea?
• Ask students to make a list of the things that make their parents special. Classmates can compare answers.
• Ask students to write a letter to their parents on how much they appreciate them. Students can take these home at the end of the day in envelopes for their parents.
• Do you remember a special time spent with your family? Ask students to write a recount of a special memory shared with their family, i.e. it could be going on a picnic, hugs in bed, etc.
• Create craft pandas with your students, such as a panda mask or even a felt, stuffed panda.