

## **Family Hugs**

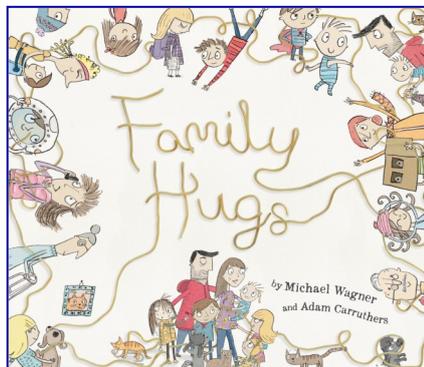
By Michael Wagner & Illustrated by Adam Carruthers

Publisher: Billy Goat Books

ISBN 9780994251749 SCIS: 1825213

\$24.95

In this thoughtful but playful picture book, illustrator Adam Carruthers perfectly captures the sentiments of Michael Wagner's poems about how families support and nurture their members. Suitable for pre-schoolers and early primary readers, *Family Hugs* both warms the heart and tickles the funnybone, while providing much to reflect upon about how loving families function.



### **Themes:**

- Family
- Unconditional love
- Helping each other
- Acceptance

### **Discussion Questions & Activities:**

- This book, made up of short poems, is all about families and the things they do to help each other. As a class, have a general discussion about the importance of family.

#### *One Big Family Hug*

- How would you describe the family in this first poem.
- Can you relate to what happens in this family? Discuss.
- What are the similarities between this family and your family? What are the differences? Encourage students to think about all aspects of the family- the family structure, the activities they do, the issues that they have, the food they eat and how they help each other.
- Draw a picture of your own family having 'one big family hug'.

#### *Someone's Having a Bad Day*

- Everyone has 'bad days'. Who was having a 'bad day' in this poem?
- What happened to make it a 'bad day'? Who helped in this situation? Why do you think they wanted to help so much?
- Can you recall a 'bad day' that you have had? What happened? Did your family help you feel better about the situation?

#### *First There's Me*

- Families come in many forms. Where do you come in the order of your family?
- Create your own family tree, going back as far as you can. Include photos if you have them.
- If you have pets, do you consider them part of your family too? Draw pictures of them and include them in your family tree if you have room!

#### *One Last Thing*

- Go home and have a 'family hug' with all your family. (You might also want to tell them that you love them!)