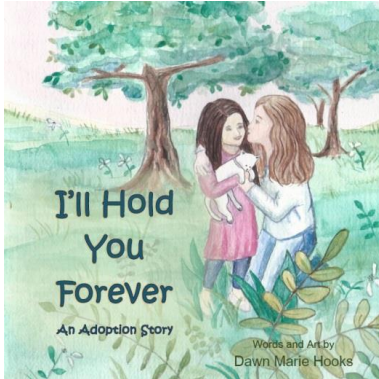


# I'll Hold You Forever

## An Adoption Story



A young girl walks through the countryside with her mom when she wonders: Is Mommy really her real mom? Mommy turns the question into a story of the child's adoption. Soon the child is reassured that her mom is real and will hold her FOREVER.



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## About Dawn Marie Hooks

Dawn Marie Hooks, M.S.Ed., combines her passion for children's literature and painting through writing and illustrating picture books. A former elementary teacher, Dawn lives in Vancouver, Washington, with her husband, two daughters, and their feisty puppy, Maui.

## Before Reading

"Raise your hand if you know someone who was adopted. What do you think adoption is?" Listen to a few different ideas. Usually students tell why they think kids are adopted. Say "Adoption happens for many different reasons. Adoption is when a child gets parent(s) through the law (legal system) instead of being born to them. This story is about a girl who was adopted. Listen for words in the story that might be the legal things with adoption."

# Discussion Questions

1. Show students the first page. "Is the mom who adopted the girl her real mom?" (Yes, she isn't fake, so she is real. In the story, the birthmother gave the job of mom to the mommy.)
2. Show the picture of the birthmother. "What's a birthmother?" (The birthmother is the woman who gave birth to the child and took care of her before she was born.)
3. Reread the page where the Mommy is getting ready for her child. "What things do you think your parent(s) did to get ready for you?"
4. "Before I read the story, I said that adoption is when a child gets parents through the law or legal system instead of through birth. What are some words in the story that sound like they have to do with the legal part of adoption?" (social worker, signing name, judge, court)
5. "Do you know the story about where/how you were born? Each of you has a different story. Some parts of a person's story may be private. Usually, a child who was adopted was loved very much by their birth family. But, for different reasons the birth family could not take care of a child at that time. So, the child was adopted by a family that could." (It is very important to make sure to respect the birth family and the child by emphasizing that the child was loved. This is a good time to talk about different reasons for adoption and different types of adoption. See "A Little About Adoption" on my website for more information.)
5. "At the end of the story, Mommy tells her child that she fits perfectly into their family. What makes you feel like you fit into your family?"

Correlates to Common Core Standards Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details 2.1, 2.3; Integration of Knowledge and Ideas 2.7; Language: Knowledge of Language 2.3.

# Activity

Have students bring in a collection of family photographs that show their families and how they came to be in their families. This can include current family photos, newborn pictures, pictures of when they first moved home with their family or adoption day pictures. Have students create a collage. Photos can be trimmed, angled, and embellished. Have students write a brief explanation about who is in their family and how they came to be a family.

*Correlates to Common Core Standards: Writing Text Types and Purposes W.2.2.; Production and Distribution of Writing W.2.5; Language Conventions of Standard English L.2.1.*