

**Mama, Do You Love Me?**  
*Written by Barbara M. Joose*  
*Illustrated by Barbara Lavallee*

**Dear Family Member,**

Reading together may be a simple activity—but it's one of the most important things you can do with your child. The following tips can help even the busiest families get the most from reading together.

**Check out the book's title and cover.** Ask your child what the book might be about, based on its title and cover illustration. As you read the book, pause now and again to ask your child what he or she thinks will happen next.

**Share the reading experience.** If your child is able, invite him or her to read aloud with you. Try reading one character's dialogue and letting your child read another's. Children not yet able to read can chime in on rhyming words or words that appear over and over again in the story.

**Encourage comments.** As you read, ask your child to tell what she or he thinks about the characters, the pictures, and the story so far.

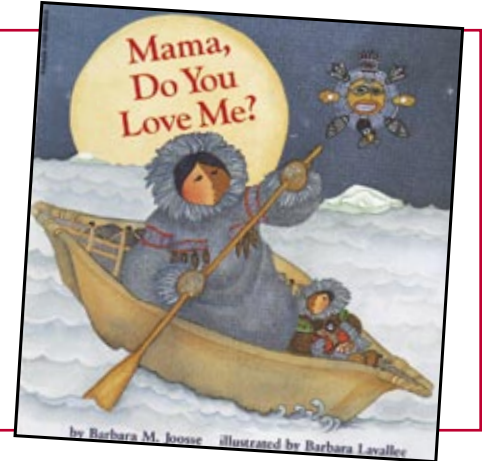
**Happy Reading!**



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**BOOK  
SUMMARY**

Through a series of imaginative questions, an Inuit girl finds that her mother's love for her is unconditional. The story reveals features of Inuit culture while discussing the everlasting bond between a mother and her daughter.



**Talking Together**

**The girl in this story** discovers that her mother's love is very strong. Talk about how love helps keep a family together. How do you and your child show your love for each other?

**In this story, we learn how the mother** would be affected by each event the girl imagines. Talk about cause and effect and how it works in your home. For example, what is the effect of eating a good, healthy breakfast in the morning?

**The animals, clothing, shelter,** and transportation of the Inuit culture all play parts in the lives of the people in this story. Talk about the animals, clothing, shelter, and transportation in your area and how they are important.

**Doing Things Together**

**Animal Pictures.** In the story, the girl imagines herself turning into different animals. Have your child draw a picture of himself or herself as a favorite animal standing next to you. Together, write a caption for the picture. For example: "What if I turned into a mouse and ate all your cheese?" "Then I would be hungry. But I would still love you."

**A family tree.** Help your child understand the value of your own family's cultural history by sharing souvenirs and photographs from your family's past. Help your child create a family tree and illustrate it with drawings or photographs.

**Reading More Together**

**Here are some other books by Barbara M. Joosse** *Better With Two; Dinah's Mad, Bad Wishes; Fourth of July; and Nobody's Cat.*