



Notes to Dad

By Josie Stewart and Lynn Salem
12 pages/114 words



Synopsis

Dad delights in receiving messages from his son Stevie. Functional notes as well as an “I Love You” banner fluttering from the second story window are in childlike handwriting.

Before the First Page

Ask students to list various reasons for leaving notes. Students can work in pairs and write a quick note to one another.

Set-Up for Success

Reinforce the language of the book during the *Before the First Page* activity.

Independent Reading – Students may need support with **Don’t**, page 6; **another**, **star**, page 8.

Guided Reading – Review the suggestions for *Independent Reading*. Include support for **When**, pages 4 and 6; **biggest**, page 11.

Learning about Print

- Directionality on multiple lines of text.
- Unique features of handwritten text.
- Format of letter writing.
- Punctuation marks – period, comma, apostrophe used in possessives, ellipsis (...).
- Capitalization of proper nouns – **Dad**, **Stevie**, **Matt**.

Key Words and Phrases

write

when

Learning about Words

The vocabulary in this book provides opportunities to introduce, practice or enrich the following:

- Digraph **wh** – **when**.
- Silent **w** – **write**.
- Contractions – **I’m**, **it’s**.
- Word endings – **shopping**, **biggest**, **notes**, **cards**.

Assessment Opportunities

The following problem-solving behaviors can be observed and recorded:

- Using word segments to solve unfamiliar words.
- Using pictures as a source of information.
- Reading in meaningful phrases.
- Using punctuation as a guide while reading.

After the Last Page

- Create a class mailbox with a compartment for each student.
- Rewrite the book as *Notes to My Teacher*.
- * Write a letter to a relative or a friend.
- Create a pen pal system in your school or with another school.

Throughout the Day

Math

- Learn the cost of postage stamps.
- Sort various stamps. Students determine the features by which to sort.
- Create patterns with stamps.
- Invite a stamp collector to visit.

Problem-Solving

- Write story problems, i.e., If you mailed 3 letters with first class postage, how much would it cost?

Social Studies

- Create family trees. Write letters to relatives to obtain the needed information to complete the family tree.
- Study the United States Postal Service and possible careers.
- Look at stamps from various countries around the world.

Art

- Create birthday cards.
- Create stationery for letter writing.
- Design a postage stamp.



The Home Connection

- Convert an old sheet into party decorations.
- Plan a birthday party for a family member.
- Begin a family message board or bulletin board.
- Start a family journal. Each family member takes a turn writing in the journal.
- Write notes to one another.

*** Show What You Know – a document to keep**

Activities marked with an asterisk (*) are appropriate for assessment.

Read On...

Ahlberg, Janet and Allen. *The Jolly Postman*.

Blos, Joan. *Old Henry*.

Carle, Eric. *The Secret Birthday Message*.

Keats, Ezra Jack. *A Letter to Amy*.

Lobel, Arnold. "The Letter." *Frog and Toad Are Friends*.

Pulver, Robin. *The Holiday Handwriting Book*.

Salem, Lynn and Josie Stewart. *Notes from Mom*.

Selway, Martina. *Don't Forget to Write*.

Thaler, Mike. *Never Mail an Elephant*.

Wild, Margaret. *Thank You, Santa*.