

# 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**

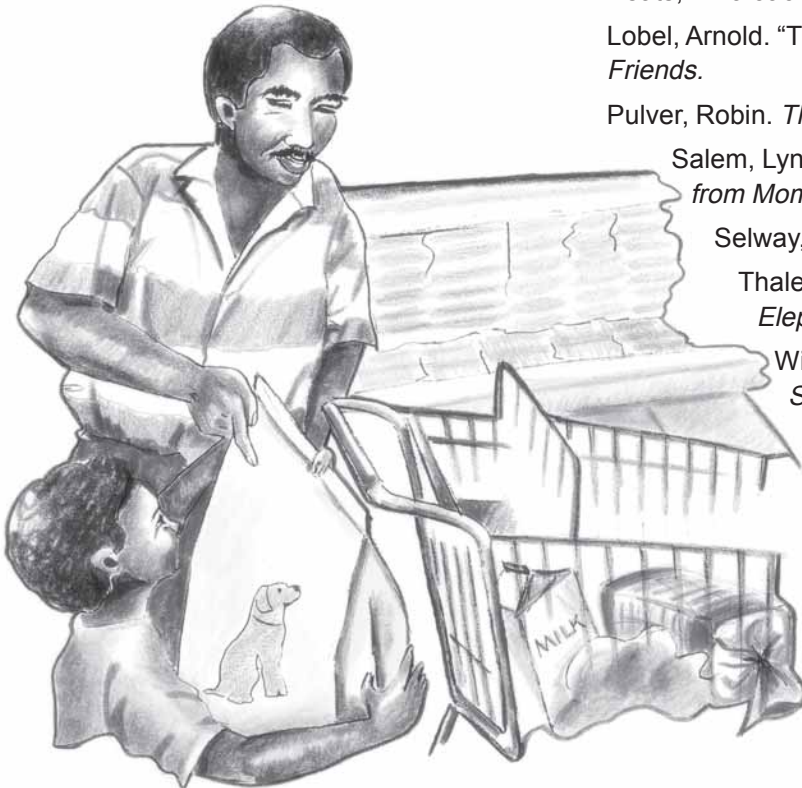
- Write story problems, i.e., If you mailed 3 letters with first class postage, how much would it cost?

### **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*.