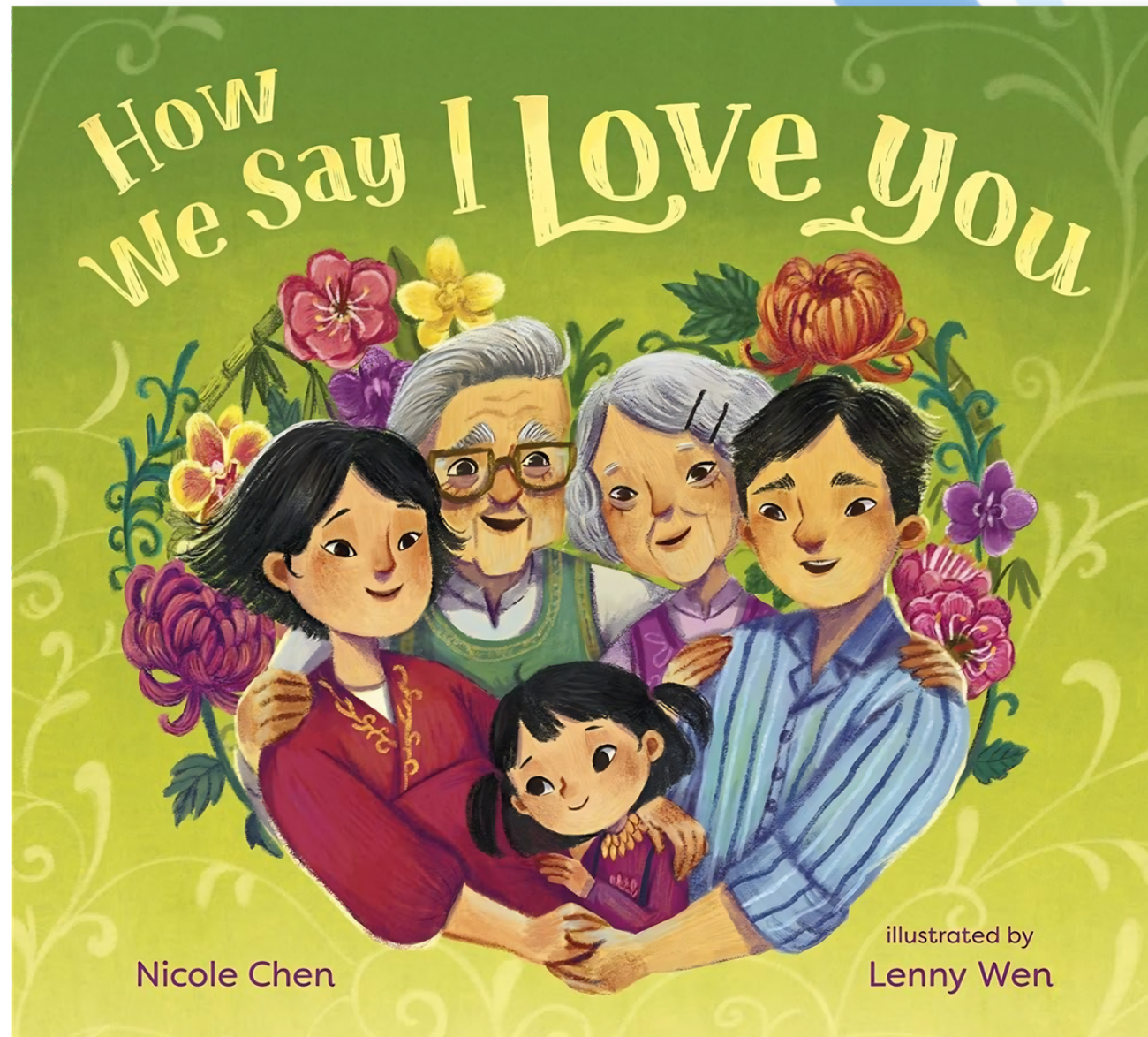


FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

BOOK BRIDGES



How We Say I Love You

Author: Nicole Chen

Illustrator: Lenny Wen

Activities Created by
Washburn University Education Major:
Caroline Chiddix

Summary of How We Say I Love You

How We Say I Love You follows Hana and her family. In their home, they don't often use the words "I love you," but instead show their love through actions.

Read Alouds



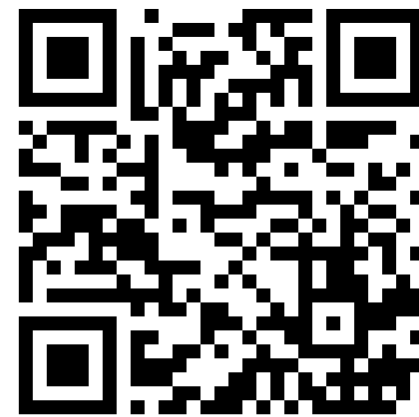
[English Youtube
Read-Aloud](#)

About the Author and Illustrator

Nicole Chen is a Taiwanese American living in California. Chen has written three books, one picture book, and two middle grade novels. Each of her stories is influenced by her multilingual home.

Lenny Wen is a children's book author and illustrator from Indonesia. Wen has always loved drawing and sharing stories. She has worked on and written a variety of children's books.

Learn More



[Nicole Chen](#)



[Lenny Wen](#)

Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking about a story before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, make connections, and build a love of reading.



Before Reading

- Who do you think all the people on the cover are?
- How do you think the people in this book say “I love you”? Do you think it’s the same way we say it? Why?



During Reading

- Are there any foods or meals that make you feel loved and happy?
- What do you do during your nighttime routine? Is it the same as Hana’s?



After Reading

- What are some things our family does to show love without saying it?
- How do you show other people you love them without saying it?
- How do different people in our family show love?

Extending the Book with Additional Reading



If you are interested in additional reading, check out the books below!



Talk About These Questions

- How are these books similar to How We Say I Love You?
- How do they show identity, belonging, or love in different ways?
- What are some ways these stories celebrate families and culture?



How To Say Hello by Sophie Beer

A story that explores the many ways to say hello, just like the many ways to say I love you.



I Am Golden by Eva Chen

The story of Mei, who is the daughter of Chinese immigrants, learning to love her different heritage.

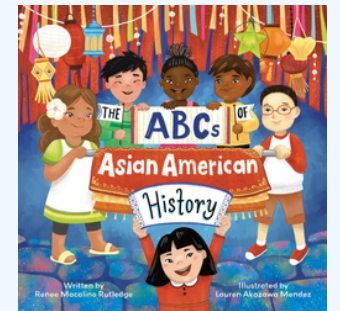


More Books to Explore

More great books that celebrate Asian American stories, culture, and achievements.



The Truth About Dragons by Julie Leung



The ABCs of Asian American History by Renee Ruthedge



Extending the Book with Writing

After reading *How We Say I Love You*, have your child retell the story and draw pictures to match the parts they remember.

- 1 Retell the story.** Ask your child to tell you what happened in the beginning, middle, and end.
- 2 Draw pictures.** Have your child draw pictures to match each part of their retelling.
- 3 Label the pictures.** Ask who or what is in each picture and help them write the names or labels.
- 4 Write about the pictures.** If your child is ready, have them write a word or sentence about what is happening.



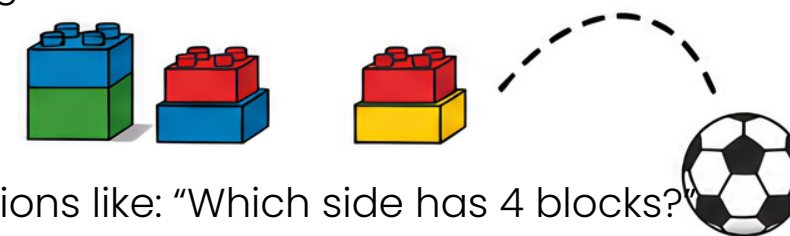
Encourage your child to add as much detail as possible. Celebrate their ideas and efforts!



Extending the Book with Math

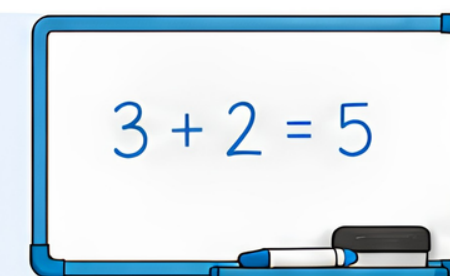
Use blocks or Legos and a ball to practice counting, comparing amounts, and simple addition.

- 1 Set up two groups of blocks or Legos.** Place two groups on either side. Start with a small space between each block if your child is just learning to count. As they grow, place the blocks close together.
- 2 Ask questions.** Try questions like: "Which side has 4 blocks?" or "Which side has more?"
- 3 Score a goal!** When your child finds the correct side, have them roll or kick the ball toward the blocks to score a goal.
- 4 Add up.** When your child is ready, try addition questions like " $3 + 2 = ?$ " or " $2 + 4 = ?$ "
- 5 Write number sentences.** Write the number sentence together on a whiteboard or paper.



Example Questions

- Which side has 4 blocks?
- Which side has more?
- How many blocks in all?
- $3 + 2 = ?$
- $5 + 1 = ?$
- $2 + 3 = ?$

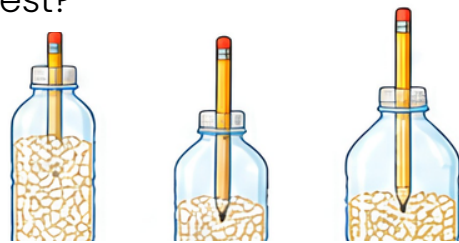
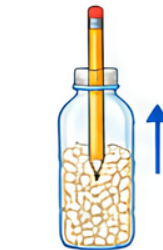
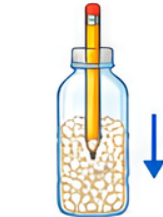




Extending the Book with Science

Explore how tightly packed rice can create friction that helps lift a bottle with a pencil or chopstick.

- 1** **Fill the bottle.** Use a funnel to fill the plastic bottle with uncooked rice.
- 2** **Pack the rice tightly.** Push down on the rice so it is packed in as tightly as you can.
- 3** **Insert the pencil or chopstick.** Push the eraser end of a pencil or the blunt end of a chopstick straight down into the rice as far as it will go.
- 4** **Slowly lift.** Slowly lift the pencil or chopstick. See if the bottle comes up with it!
- 5** **Try again!** If the bottle does not lift, push the pencil back down and try again. Repeat until you can lift the bottle!
- 6** **Experiment more.** Try different bottle sizes or types of rice. What works best?



Try It

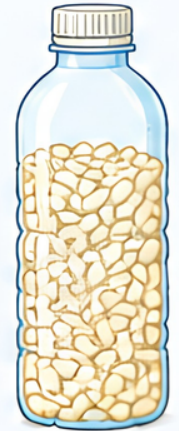


Materials

- Plastic bottle (clean and dry)
- Uncooked rice
- Pencil (with eraser) or chopstick (blunt end)

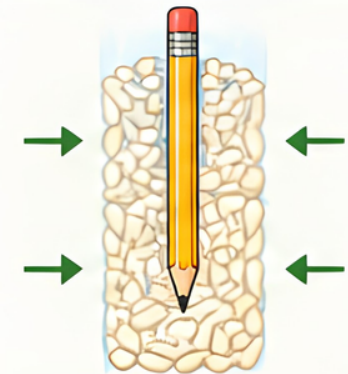
Optional

- Funnel
- Different sizes of plastic bottles
- Different types of rice



Why does it work?

When the rice is packed very tightly, the grains create friction around the pencil or chopstick. That friction helps hold the bottle up as it lifts!



Think and Discuss

- Why do you think the bottle came up with the pencil or chopstick?
- What happened when the rice was not packed tightly?
- If it didn't work at first, what did you change or try?
- What happens when you use a bigger bottle? A smaller bottle?
- What did you discover?





Extending the Book with Social Studies

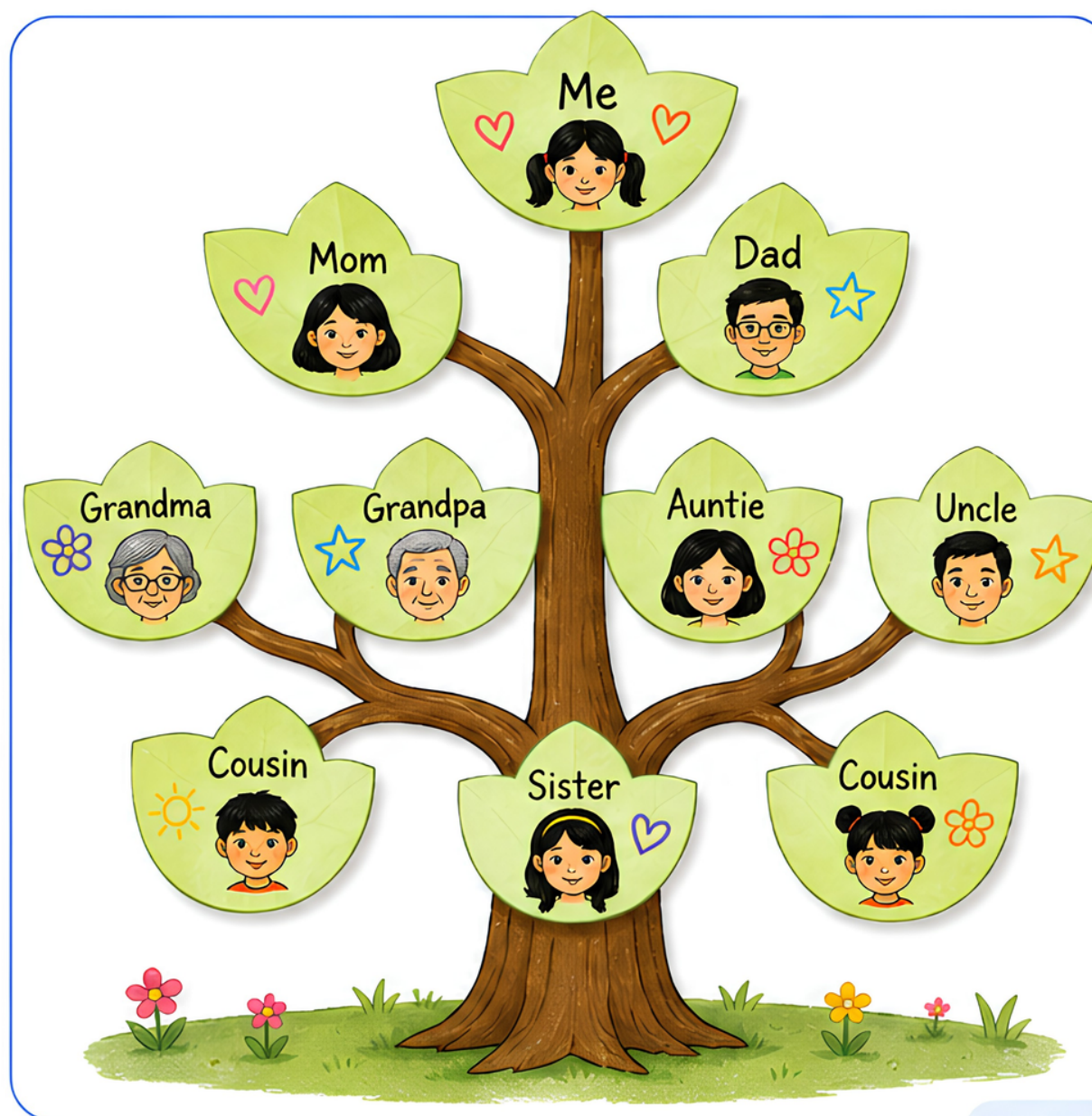
This activity helps children think about family members and how people in a family are connected.

- 1 Make a list.** Ask your child to tell you the names of family members.
- 2 Talk about connections.** Help your child identify how each person is related. Examples: grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, and more.
- 3 Create leaves.** Write each person's name on a leaf shape. (Use the leaf template on the next page or draw your own!)
- 4 Decorate the leaves.** Color the leaves and add drawings or symbols that remind your child of each person.
- 5 Build the family tree.** Glue the leaves onto a large paper. Put your child at the top, and arrange the rest of the family branching down in a way that makes sense.



Helpful Tips

- Adults can help cut leaves or spell names.
- Encourage your child to write the names.
- Every family is unique—include anyone who is special!



Talk About It

- What did you notice about your family?
- Who is connected to whom?
- What makes each family member special?



Families show love in many ways, just like the family in the story!



Extending the Book with Art

Use pipe cleaners and paint to make flower stamps and create a colorful flower picture!

1

Make a shape.

Bend a pipe cleaner into a shape. Try circles, hearts, stars, or your own idea!



2

Add a handle.

Attach another pipe cleaner as a handle to make a flower stamp.



3

Stamp the flowers.

Dip the shape in paint and press it onto paper to make flower prints.



4

Add stems and leaves.

Use a paintbrush to add stems and leaves to your flowers.



Art Idea

Try using different shapes and colors. You can make a whole garden!



Celebrate your art!

When the paint is dry, write your name and the date on your art. Display your beautiful flower garden at home!



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BRIDGES