

Ten Beautiful Things

Written By: Molly Beth Griffin

Illustrated By: Maribel Lechuga

Synopsis: Lily is moving to her grandmother’s farm in Iowa, and she is sad about all the changes necessary in her life—but on the long drive her grandmother challenges her to find ten beautiful things they can share together.

Suggested Reading Date:

Grandparent’s Day (September 11th)

National Family Day (September 26th)

Also fits the PBIS themes of Gratitude (November), Courage (April), and Being Positive (May)

Activity Descriptions:

- Talk about different family structures, and how family includes both those who live with you and those who may live far away.
- Lily is moving from the city to the Iowa countryside; show a map of Iowa to help the kids understand where she’s going, and also talk about the different settings within and around your own community and Washington State more broadly.
- If you have access to physical maps, let the kids explore the different features of a map and give a mini-lesson on how distances on a map are calculated.
- There are several uses of language in the book where Lily’s physical feelings are used to show her emotions; talk about how your body feels during different emotions. How can you self-regulate to get yourself centered again?
- Create a zine where the kids draw 10 beautiful things from their own lives; it can be small enough to keep in their pockets (see below).

Related Websites:

- Library Lessons With Books on Ten Beautiful Things, including the zine idea from above: <https://librarylessonswithbooks.com/ten-beautiful-things/>
- Molly Beth Griffin’s author website: <https://mollybethgriffin.com/>
- Maribel Lechuga’s illustrator website: <http://www.maribellechuga.com/>
- What Is a Family?, by Learning for Justice: <https://www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources/lessons/what-is-a-family>

Text to Text Connections:

Just Like Mama by Alice Faye Duncan

Home for a While by Laura Kerstein

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

The Blue House by Phoebe Wahl

Created By: Ryan Grant