

JUST LIKE A MAMA
by Alice Faye Duncan / Charnelle Pinkney Barlow (Illustrator)

Grade Level: Elementary

Guiding Questions:

- What are some characteristics of a Mama?
- When is it possible to be happy and sad?
- What community members have cared for you like a parent?

Learning Objectives:

During this lesson, students will read the book “*Just Like a Mama*” written by Alice Faye Duncan and illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow. Students will explore the qualities and characteristics of a loving parent and the concept of “Fictive Kin.”

Curriculum Standards:

2.RL.KID.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

1.RL.KID.2 Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

2.RL.IKI.7 Either orally or in writing when appropriate, use illustrations and words in a text to describe its characters, setting, or events.

Introduction: Fictive Kin

Have you ever called someone your “sister” or “brother,” but they are not really related to you? Maybe you have an adult who supports and cares for you like an aunt, uncle, mama or daddy. That is called a “fictive kin.” Fictive Kin is a term that describes made-up or invented families. Today, we call “fictive kin,” our “Play Cousins” or our “Play Aunts and Uncles.” Although these special people are not related to us, we love them just like family.

Lesson Activities

Activity 1: T-Chart Comparisons

Activity 2: What Does Love Look Like?

Activity 3: Who is Mama Rose?

Activity 4: Multiple Choice Quiz

Activity 5: Matching the Illustrations

Activity 1: T-Chart Comparisons (How are they alike?)

Directions: Think about what a Mama or Daddy does. For example, Carol Olivia Clementine said that combing her hair is something a Mama would do. Make a list of things that you believe a Mama or Daddy would do. Then choose an adult you know that is not your parent: a Teacher, Auntie, Uncle, or Older Sibling. Using the T-Chart below, compare this loved one to a Mama/Daddy.

Example:

How are they alike?	
<i>Things a Mama/Daddy do.</i>	<i>Things that a <u>Grandma</u> does.</i>
<i>Example: A mama combs your hair.</i>	<i>Example: A Grandma combs your hair.</i>

How are they alike? They are alike because they both can comb your hair.

How are they alike?	
<i>Things a Mama/Daddy do.</i>	<i>Things that a _____ does.</i>

How are they alike?

Activity 2: Illustrating Love

Directions: In the book, “*Just Like a Mama*” by Alice Faye Duncan, Mama Rose did many things to show that she loved Carol Olivia Clementine. What does love look like for you? Draw a picture of what love looks like. Include caption telling what the picture is about.



Tell us what this picture is about.

Activity 4: “Just Like a Mama” Quiz

Directions: Complete the quiz by circling or writing the correct answer.

1. Who are the main characters?
 - a. Mama and Papa
 - b. Mama Rose and Papa
 - c. Mama Rose and Carol
 - d. Carol and her Mama

2. What does Mama Rose do *just like a mama*? Select **ALL** that apply.
 - a. She combs Carol’s hair.
 - b. She buys Carol birthday gifts.
 - c. She makes Carol eat her veggies.
 - d. She encourages Carol to do chores.

3. How does Carol feel about Mama Rose?
 - a. Carol loves Mama Rose.
 - b. Carol misses her parents.
 - c. Carol does not like Mama Rose.
 - d. The story doesn’t tell us.

4. What is Carol’s full name?
 - a. Carol Clementine
 - b. Olivia Carol Clementine
 - c. Carol Olivia Clementine
 - d. Clementine Carol Olivia

5. How many birthdays has Carol celebrated with Mama Rose?
 - a. 1 birthday
 - b. 2 birthdays
 - c. 3 birthdays
 - d. 4 birthdays

6. What is Mama Rose’s nickname for Carol?
 - a. Pumpkin
 - b. Sweet Heart
 - c. Ladybug
 - d. Darling

7. How old was Carol when Mama Rose bought her a bike?
 - a. 8 yrs old
 - b. 6 yrs old
 - c. 5 yrs old
 - d. 7 yrs old

8. Where does *most* of this story take place?
 - a. At school.
 - b. Outside in a tent.
 - c. In Carol’s imagination.
 - d. At Mama Rose’s house.

9. Does this story take place in the past, present or in the future? How do you know?

Activity 5: Match the Illustration to the appropriate text.
Directions: Draw a line from the text to the matching illustrations.



- “She buttons my winter coat.”

- “She bought me a watch when I turned five.”

- “She bought me a new bike when I turned 6.”

- “I wrinkle my nose and go ahead and eat ‘em.”

- “My room is a mess and Mama Rose is not pleased.”

- “Mama Rose is my home.”

- “Just like a Mama, she combs my hair.”

