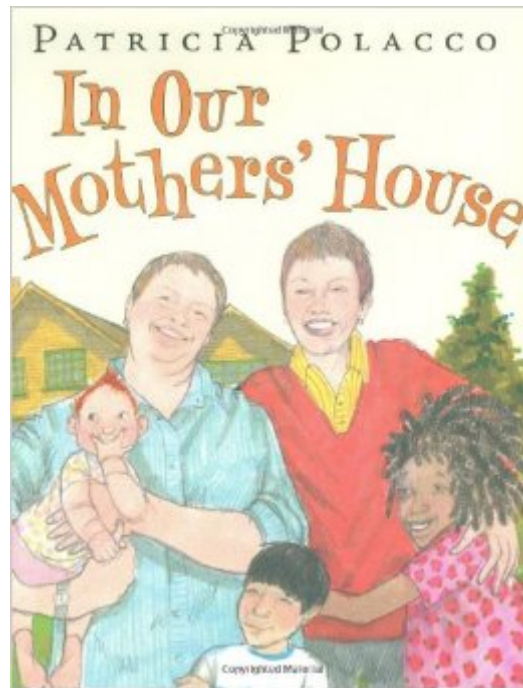


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# In Our Mothers' House



## Synopsis

Marmee, Meema, and the kids are just like any other family on the block. In their beautiful house, they cook dinner together, they laugh together, and they dance together. But some of the other families don't accept them. They say they are different. How can a family have two moms and no dad? But Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. And they teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong. And no matter how many moms or dads they have, they are everything a family is meant to be. Here is a true Polacco story of a family, living by their own rules, and the strength they gain by the love they feel.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD750L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition first Printing edition (April 30, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039925076X

ISBN-13: 978-0399250767

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #356,637 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

I'm reading the 1 star comments and laughing. Yes, if you think children should not know about gay families (or adoptive families, or families with more than 1 child, or families who celebrate Halloween, etc, etc, etc...all things that DO happen in our world regardless of whether you agree with it), you won't like this. \*I\*, however, thought it was a good book. Really, the facts that the children are adopted and that the parents are both mothers are REALLY NOT FOCUSED ON. They just happen to be a 2-mom family, the kids just happen to be adopted. It's really the equivalent of a book about a mom-dad family where there isn't a lot of discussion about WHO makes up the couple, but that information is part of the background. The conflict with the neighbor isn't even the focus of the book. It, too, was a very small sub-story in this book. Goodness, find this from your library, see

what I'm talking about, and then buy it if you feel inclined to do so. But honestly, as someone who would have been 100% fine if the "difference" WERE the focus of the book, this is just a book about a family. :)

The book is wonderful and my absolute favorite among my children's books. Our kids read it often and will always comment on certain aspects that relate to their own stories. The book touches on many topics: the unconditional love of two mothers for their children, lesbian parenting, adoption, transracial families, homophobia, true family values, loss, and the comfort we find in the traditions that we create. I have read it so many times - and still my eyes tear up at the end.

Polacco, P. (2009). *In our mothers' house*. New York, NY: Philomel Books. Genre: Children's Picture Storybook

Polacco stepped aside from her usual books based on personal experiences and heritage to write a book for children and families that she has met in schools, at speaking engagements, etc. *In Our Mothers' House* is the story of three adopted children and the love and devotion they received from their two mothers in their mothers' house. Polacco's story highlights the love of this family but also showcases some of the challenges and discrimination that "non-traditional" families face. I particularly enjoyed the scenes in which the mothers sewed the children's homemade Halloween costumes and dresses for a special tea. Despite all the love and support the two mothers offered their children, there was one mother in the neighborhood that was not accepting of their non-traditional family and it is beyond sad that these children had to deal with the hateful confrontation of this cold, bitter woman in such a public manner. Fortunately, Marmee and Meema were loving individuals and they did not let the hateful comments of one person impact the love in their hearts. I admire their strength and respectful response to hatred. The book follows the three children into their adult lives. Sharing their marriages at their mothers' house, capturing the first steps of their own children at their mothers' house, and coming together for family events/gatherings after their mothers have passed...this story is remarkably touching and brought tears to my eyes. Beautiful, beautiful story of unconditional love. Polacco at her finest!

Bought this to read to our daughter. Nice story of how 3 children are adopted and raised by their mothers but story continues into adulthood including the mothers growing elderly and dying. Even for the target age (6-8 year olds) it's not an easy ending to read to them.

Marmee and Meema and their three children fill their lives with the joy of new puppies, holiday

meals and homemade Halloween costumes. They cook together, laugh together, dance together. Their lives are like any other family in their town. And while one of their neighbors doesn't accept them because they are different, Marmee and Meema handle it with gentleness and grace, focusing instead on the support they feel from the rest of their neighborhood. Patricia Polacco has created a portrait of a loving family here, celebrating their differences while showing the love that all of the family members feel for each other. This certainly can help children see that families with two moms, two dads or adopted children are families full of love; but this book also simply reminds children of the love and safety they feel within their own home.

We love this book. Not only is it culturally diverse and inclusive, but it has a real story to it. In our home, we like the whole story of going into the neighborhood festival, hearing how the children grew up and how life turned out.

I am a grad student in a Reading Specialist program and bought this book after discussing it in one of my classes. I am a huge fan of Patricia Polacco's and this book is no exception. It is a heartwarming tale of a multi-ethnic family and their two mothers. It discusses their everyday life and the love and happiness in their family. There is also 1 family down the block that introduces tension to the story - with their vocal disapproval of the relationship between the two mothers. Overall, a great book that I really enjoyed reading. A few disappointing things - the illustrations of the two mothers are very much the stereotypical portrayal of lesbian women, short hair, pants (there is a specific point in the book of how they never wear dresses), etc. Also, at the end of the book, the 3 children go off and start jobs and find their own relationships. The jobs selected for each child stick to the traditional gender roles (which is disappointing since this is a book that is advocating for acceptance of this family structure)

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