



Two Homes, One Heart

Classroom Guide

Love doesn't divide when homes multiply — it grows in both directions

CASEL Competency: Self-Awareness

Grade Level: Pre-K–2

Duration: 35–45 minutes

Category: Growing Up

Learning Objectives

- Understand that having two homes means having two places full of love
 - Learn that the feelings about transitions (sadness, relief, confusion) are ALL normal
 - Discover that the "heart" travels with you everywhere — it's never divided
 - Practice naming and validating complex, mixed emotions
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Overview & Preparation

Key Vocabulary

Home • Heart • Transition • Love • Packing • Routine • Miss • Familiar • Both • Carry

Materials Needed

- The personalized story
- Paper hearts (two per child)
- Small bag or backpack
- Crayons and markers
- Optional: photos of home items

Before Reading

Connection Question

What makes a place feel like home? Is it the building or the feeling inside?

Background Building

Some children have two homes — and each one has its own routines, its own smells, its own bedtime. In this story, the hero packs a bag, leaves one home, travels to the other, and discovers that while the PLACES are different, the LOVE is the same. The hardest part? The transition — missing one home while being in the other. But the hero discovers their heart doesn't split in two. It GROWS big enough for both.

During Reading — Pause Points

- **When the hero packs the bag and leaves one home** — Packing to leave is hard. What does the hero take with them? What would YOU make sure to always bring?
- **When the hero misses the other home while being in this one** — You can love where you ARE and still miss where you WERE. Both feelings are real. Has that happened to you?
- **When the hero realizes love is the same in both homes** — Different houses, different routines, but the love inside is the SAME. Why does that matter so much?

Discussion Questions

1. The hero has different routines in each home. Is that confusing or is it like being bilingual — knowing TWO ways?

↳ What's something nice about each routine being different?

2. Missing one home while being in the other is a real feeling. What helps when you miss someone or someplace?

↳ Can you miss something AND enjoy where you are at the same time?

3. The story says the heart doesn't divide — it GROWS. What does that mean?

↳ How is love different from a pizza (which gets smaller when you share it)?

4. Not everyone has two homes, but everyone has transitions. What transitions do YOU go through?

↳ What helps you during transitions — going from one place or situation to another?

Facilitation Tips

This is deeply personal for many children. Don't ask who has two homes — let children share voluntarily. Broaden the concept: ALL children experience transitions (school to home, weekday to weekend). Normalize the mixed feelings.

Emotional Payoff

The heart is not a pie that gets smaller with each slice. It's a garden that grows new rooms for each person and place it loves. Two homes doesn't mean half a heart — it means a heart that learned to love in stereo.

After Reading Activities

Two Hearts, One Me

Duration: 15 min | Materials: Two paper hearts per child, crayons, string

Each child decorates two hearts: one for each "home" (or two important places in their life). Write or draw what they love about each. Connect the hearts with a string. The string is YOU — you carry both with you always.

Transition Toolkit

Duration: 10 min | Materials: Small bags, comfort items, paper

Create a "transition toolkit" — things that help during changes: a photo, a comfort object, a deep breath card, a note from a loved one. Pack the toolkit. Discuss: what helps you feel safe during transitions?

Love Is the Same Game

Duration: 10 min | Materials: None

Stand up. Teacher calls out differences: "Different house!" (step left). "Different bedtime!" (step right). "Different routines!" (turn around). Then: "Same love!" (hands on heart). "Same hugs!" (group hug). "Same you!" (point to self). The game shows: lots of things change, but love stays.

Writing Prompts

- Draw both of your "homes" (or two important places). What's the same inside each? What's different outside?
- Write about something you carry with you everywhere, no matter where you are.
- If your heart could talk, what would it say about going between two places?

Home Connection

Family Letter

Dear Families,

Today we read "Two Homes, One Heart," about discovering that love doesn't divide when homes multiply — it grows in both directions. Your child learned that mixed feelings about transitions are normal and that their heart is big enough for every place and person they love.

Here is how you can continue this learning at home:

- Ask: "What's your favorite thing about THIS home?" Celebrate the specifics
- Create a small "transition comfort kit" together for times of change
- Reassure: "No matter where you are, you are loved the same amount."

With warmth,

Your Child's Teacher

Related Books

- Two Homes by Claire Masurel
- The Invisible String by Patrice Karst
- Was It the Chocolate Pudding? by Sandra Levins
- Fred Stays with Me! by Nancy Coffelt