

my little one

written by Germano Zullo, illustrated by Albertine
translated from the French by Katie Kitamura

EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

A mother, welcoming her tiny son into the world, wants to tell him the story of their lives, whispering to him as she swings him gently around. With each successive page, he grows while she shrinks, until she is being held by the man he has become. An eloquent portrait of life's waxing and waning, *My Little One* is a moving celebration of steady, unconditional love, for all ages.



CHANGES

In the book, Albertine illustrates a mother and son changing over time, even though the love they share stays the same. Have the children create drawings thinking about change in their own lives:

🌱 Draw a picture of your family. What does your family look like today? What will it look like when you are older?

🌱 What else changes with time? Together, make a list of things you see changing and growing all the time – the moon, plants, a pet, the weather . . . The list should be long: change is everywhere! Then, choose something from the list and draw a picture showing its change.

🌱 Create small flip books showing changes, either in the world outside or in their families. Provide small sets of paper stapled together, or sticky notepads. Have them draw one phase of the change on each page, and then flip through to watch a sprout grow into a tree, or a caterpillar into a butterfly!

Older children can also include captions

For each set of drawings, ask: what changes? What stays the same?



FAMILY STORIES

In *My Little One*, a mother tells her son the story of their lives. Have the children share some of their families' favorite or most important stories and traditions with each other, then depict them using crayons, markers, colored pencils, or paints. Why did you choose this story?

P.S. What happens next? Think about how the son's life continues on after the book ends. What kinds of feelings, events, and conversations does he have? Imagine a scene and depict it. Try drawing like Albertine! Share your drawing with the group. Explain how you think the story continues, and why.



SWING TIME

Rocking, leaning, swinging, shrinking, and growing: *My Little One* is a book full of movement. The dance between mother and son lets us see how strong their bond is, how much they support and trust each other. With a partner, pick out four or five of your favorite moves from the story and use them to choreograph a dance together. What do you learn from dancing with one another?