

*Classroom and home activities for
Verses for Dad's Heart
By
Steven L. Layne*

About this book

One book at a time, Steven L. Layne is introducing students, teachers, and parents all over the world to his love and enthusiasm for the written word.

In this timeless and poignant work of poetry for and about dads, Layne offers us a glimpse of the heroes closest to home – our fathers. With stubborn love and sage advice, these men provide a special guidance that is essential whether we are two, twelve, or twenty years old. Writing in the voice of children who grow older as the pages turn, award-winning author Steven L. Layne's verses are filled to overflowing with humor and heart – reminding readers of the legacy that is fostered in a father's unconditional love.

*This guide contains a variety of activities for use with students in grades 1-12 that will help them reflect upon and respond to the poems in
Verses for Dad's Heart.*

Suggested activities by grade level

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Poetry writing skills exercises

**

Art activity

VERSES for DAD'S HEART



By Steven L. Layne
Illustrations by Gail Greaves Klinger

VERSES FOR DAD'S HEART

Written by Steven L. Layne
Illustrated by Gail Greaves Klinger
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For more information contact
Promo@pelicanpub.com

For information about booking an
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Pelican Publishing Company
PO Box 3110
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1-800-843-1724 ext. 319
www.pelicanpub.com

This study guide created by
Christine Moen

Classroom and Home Activities for Steven L. Layne's *Verses for Dad's Heart*

Grades 1-3

My Daddy Pattern Poem
Daddy Never Fails

Grades 3-6

Recipe for a Great Dad
Superhero Souvenir Card
If I Can...Just Like My Dad

Grades 7-12

If I Can...Just Like My Dad
Powerful Words -Words of Power
Symbol of Your Love, Caring, and Tenderness

Classroom Send Home Activity for Grades 4-6

Read-Aloud Poem for Father and Child

Additional Classroom Suggestions Grades 3-12:

After reading *Thanks for Loving Mom*, have students write a thank you note to their fathers focusing on the nice things that they see their dads do for their moms.

After reading *Daddy's Hands*, have students write a poem based on this poem's pattern. Some titles might be *Daddy's Smile*, *Daddy's Laughter*, *Daddy's Strength*, or *Daddy's Kindness*.

Have students learn how to say *dad*, *daddy*, or *father* in different languages. Next, have students read aloud with partners their favorite poems, substituting some of these words.



Daddy Never Fails

Directions: Read *Daddy Never Fails*. The first word in each line ends in “ing.” Write your own list of “ing” words that tell all the things your daddy does for you.

_____ing.

_____ing.

_____ing.

Daddy never fails

_____ing.

_____ing.

_____ing.

Daddy never fails.

_____ing.

_____ing.

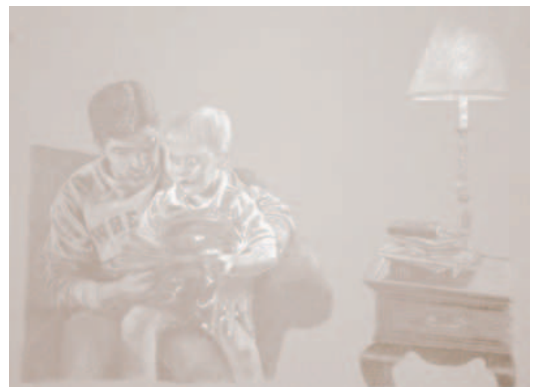
_____ing.

Daddy never fails!

GUIDANCE



FAITH



LOVE

If I Can...Just Like My Dad

Directions: Read *SomeVery Interesting Things About My Dad That I Would Like to Write Down in a Poem*. Next, think of the things your dad does that you'd like to do or be able to accomplish when you become a parent. Write or draw your ideas in the spaces provided.

If I can _____

just like my dad, I know I'll be HAPPY!

If I can _____

just like my dad, I know I'll be LOVED!

If I can _____

just like my dad, I know I'll be RESPECTED!

If I can _____

just like my dad, I know I'll be SUCCESSFUL!

If I can do all these things, I know I'll be **JUST LIKE MY DAD!**



Illustration by
Gail Greaves Klinger

My Daddy Pattern Poem

Directions: Read the poem *My Daddy*. Next, follow the poem's pattern and write verses describing your dad.

My daddy
Is a very, very, very good man.

He _____

And _____.

He _____

And _____.

My daddy
Is a very, very, very good man.

Directions: Read the poem *My Daddy*. Follow the pattern below and write an original poem. You can replace the word *daddy* with other words such as *mommy*, *brother*, *puppy*, *teacher*, *grandpa*, *grandma*, *sister*, or anyone else you love!

My _____
Is a very, very, very good _____

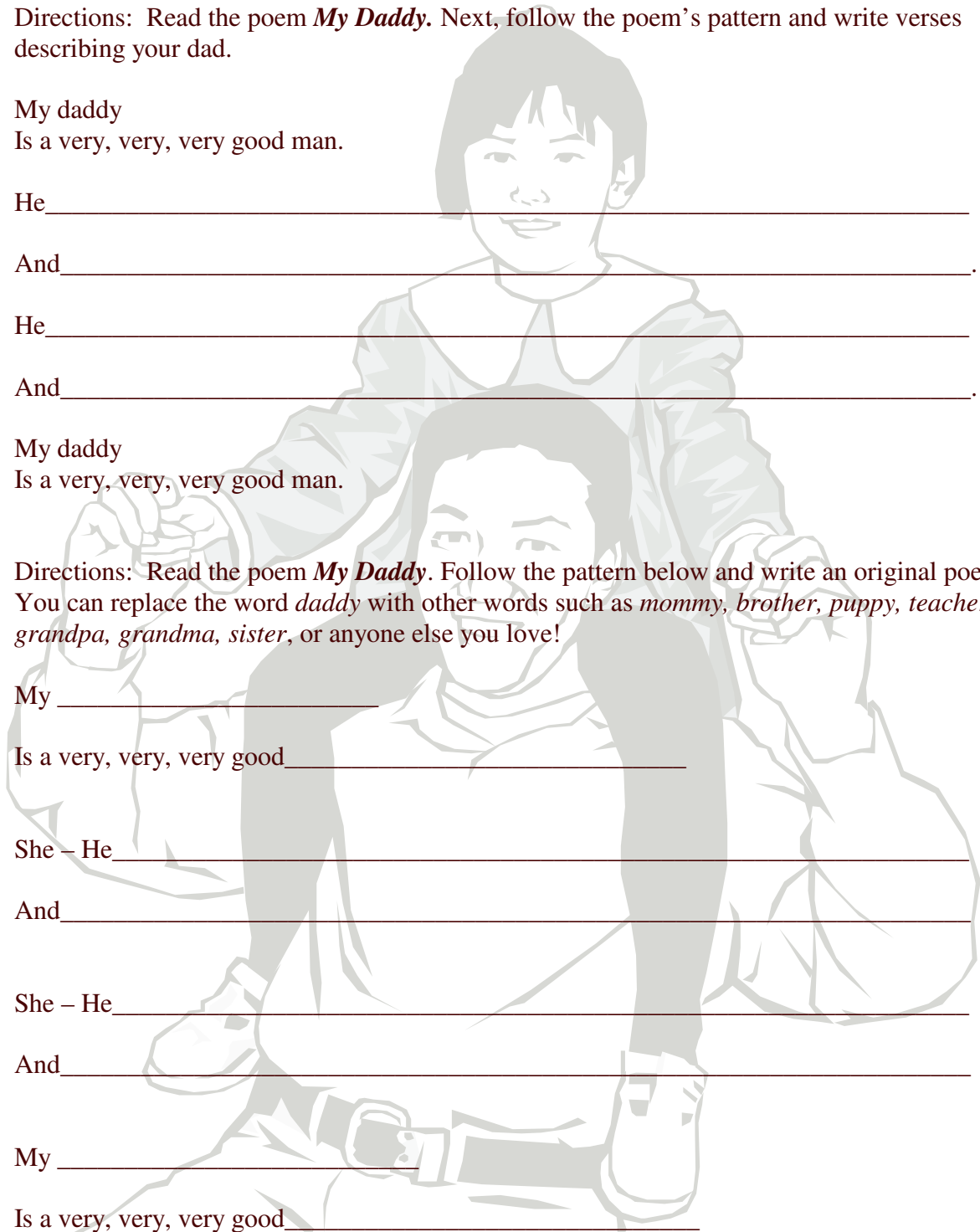
She – He _____

And _____

She – He _____

And _____

My _____
Is a very, very, very good _____



Powerful Words -Words of Power

Directions: Read *What is it about Dad?* Using a dictionary and/or a thesaurus, write definitions and synonyms for the words *empower*, *encourage*, and *edify*. Next, to demonstrate a better understanding of each of these powerful words, complete the remaining two sections entitled “What It Is - What It Isn’t” and “A Time I Feel.”

Synonyms and Definitions

Empower

Encourage

Edify

What It Is – What It Isn’t

What empowered is

What empowered is NOT

What encouraged is

What encouraged is NOT

What edified is

What edified is NOT

A Time I Feel

A time my dad empowers me is when_____

A time my dad encourages me is when_____

A time my dad edifies me is when_____

Read-Aloud Poem for Father and Child

Directions: Create your own Father-Child poem by adding your ideas to the poetry frame below as you take turns reading aloud.

CHILD'S SIDE

When Dad says,

I always laugh!

My dad is proud of me when I

_____.

My favorite food is

_____!

The best thing about my child is

We have

We are

I am

Child

WE ARE ONE!

FATHER'S SIDE

“ _____ ”

Our favorite thing to do together is

My favorite food is

_____!

The best thing about my dad is

_____.

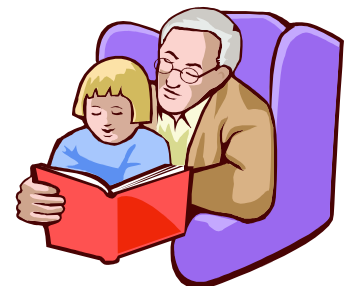
our own ideas.

individuals.

I am

Father

WE ARE ONE!



Recipe for a Great Dad



Directions: Read your favorite poem from *Verses for Dad's Heart* or have someone read aloud your favorite poem. Next, choose as many words from the word bank as you wish or use words of your own to mix up the right ingredients for a GREAT DAD!

hugs cuddles laughter kindness soft words guidance
a helping hand smiles coaching reading to me strength
teaching me things love understanding encouragement pride
comforting me taking care of me when I'm sick taking me places dancing
teaching me to pray kisses making me snacks happiness
letting me help listening to my jokes making things with me singing

Take one, great man and mix in _____

Measure in four cups of _____

and two tablespoons of _____

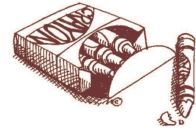
Stir in _____

and sprinkle with _____

What do you get? _____



Superhero Souvenir Card



Directions: Read the poem *Superheroes*. Next, create a Superhero Souvenir Card for your dad to show him how special he is.

Materials you will need: crayons, markers or colored pencils, scissors, and some tape or glue.

To assemble: After decorating your card, cut the card around the outside dotted line. Fold on the dotted line down the middle. Then, glue or tape the outside edges so that you have one piece of paper. Be sure to sign you name on the line at the bottom of the poem side, and put your dad's name on the line at the bottom of the Superhero drawing side.

Back



My dad is a superhero because

The best thing about my dad is

Together, my dad and I like to

My dad makes me happy when

I love my dad. He's a Superhero!

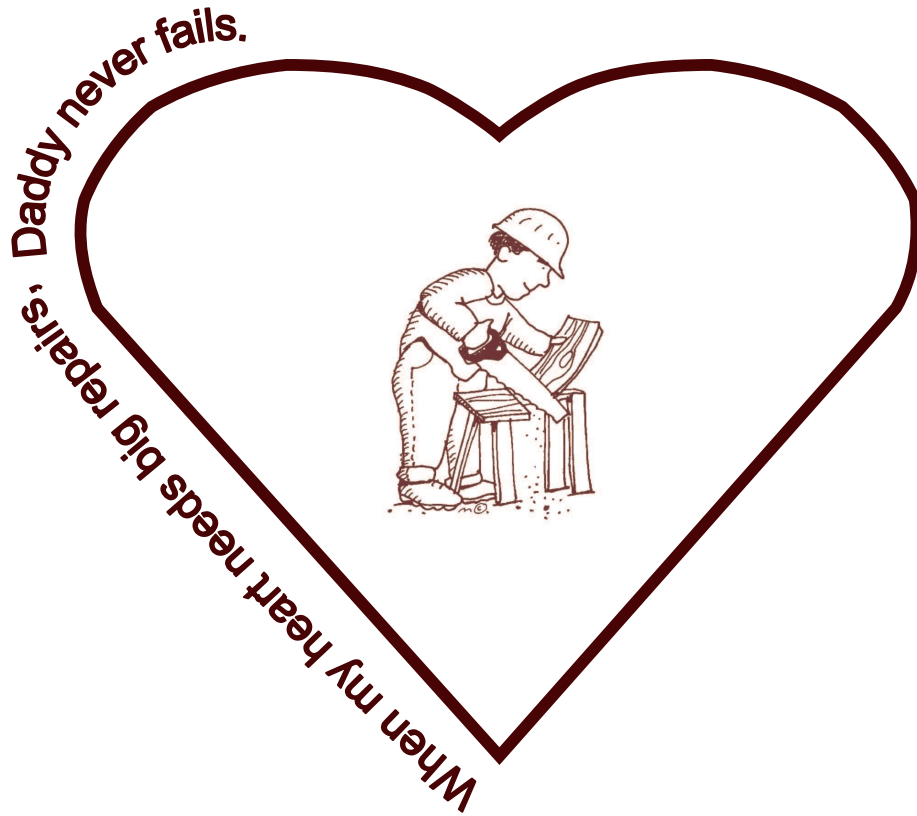
Front

Superhero

This is my dad! He's a Superhero!

Symbol of Your Love, Caring, and Tenderness

In the poem *Daddy's Hands*, the father's hands symbolize love, caring, and tenderness. Create your own symbolic poem by sketching an image and writing your poem's words on or around the image. An example is provided.



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Steven L. Layne
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Verses for Dad's Heart
Illustrated by Gail Klinger Greaves
Poetry

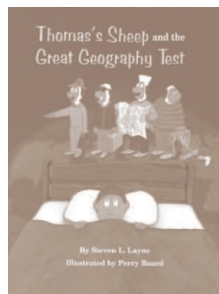
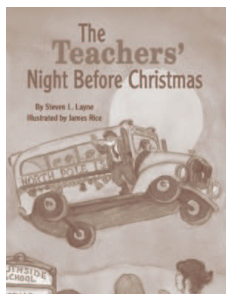
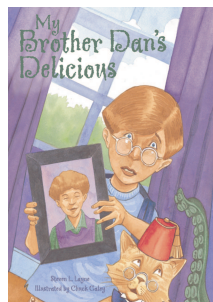
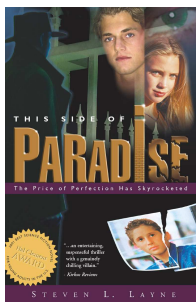
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1- 800-843-1724

Dr. Steven L. Layne has taught at both the elementary and jr. high levels for more than a decade as well as instructing at various colleges and universities in the Northern Illinois area. Currently, Dr. Layne teaches children's and adolescent literature at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, and serves as a national literacy consultant, keynote speaker, and featured author across the country. His published writings – including dramatic monologues, prose, poetry, feature articles, textbook chapters, and children's book reviews – have appeared in journals such as *The Reading Teacher*, *The Middle School Journal*, *Contemporary Education* and many more.

His picture books include the popular ABC book, *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test*, the bestselling *Teachers' Night Before Christmas*, which was recently named an IRA/CBC Children's Choice Title for 2002, and his newest title *My Brother Dan's Delicious* which will be released in the spring of 2003. Drawing on his considerable experience working with teenagers, Steve penned his first thriller, the young adult novel *This Side of Paradise*, with reluctant readers in mind. This cautionary tale about the dangers of Utopian societies received the Hal Clement Award for Best Science Fiction Novel for Young Adults published in the U.S. in 2001.

The International Reading Association released a book of Dr. Layne's popular literacy poems – *Life's Literacy Lessons: Poems for Teachers* in July of 2001. The book has been named a bestseller and has garnered high praise from influential literacy leaders including read-a-loud author Jim Trelease who says "I defy anyone to breeze through this small collection of poems that peers into the soul of childhood and literacy. . . The collection bursts with insight, tenderness, accusation, humor and the common sense of what learning and literacy are all about." This book will be released in a special hardcover edition featuring two brand new poems in December of 2002 at the request of literacy leaders and teachers from around the country.

In October of 2001, Steve was surprised at an all-school assembly where he was honored with a National Milken Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. He was also named to the 2001 All-Teacher Team by *USA Today* newspaper and was chosen as the Edwin A. Hoey Award winner for U.S. Outstanding Teacher at the junior high level by NCTE in 2001. Steve was the 2000 ICARE for Reading Award winner based on his efforts in fostering the love of reading in children. He was also the 1999 Junior High Level Reading Teacher of the Year in Illinois.

Steve serves on several state-level literacy committees throughout Illinois. He is past president of the Northern Illinois Reading Council and is an active member of the DuPage Literacy Leadership Roundtable. He has served on the Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers of America for the Fox Valley Region of Illinois and had read for the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award Committee. Steve resides in St. Charles, Illinois, with his wife Debbie and his children Grayson and Victoria. He can be contacted through www.stevelayne.com

About the illustrator, Gail Greaves Klinger

Gail Greaves Klinger has been an art educator for over thirty years. She has taught art to all grade levels in public schools and to adults in community-park districts. She is a member of Lively Arts and of the National Art Education Association. Her art has been on public display in many locations

About the study guide developer, Christine Moen

Christine Boardman Moen is a veteran teacher and author of nine professional books for teachers and one children's book. Some of Christine's titles include Read-Alouds and Performance Reading: A Handbook of Activities for Middle School Classrooms (Christopher-Gordon 2004), Literature Circle Roles Sheets (Teaching & Learning, 1997) and Better than Book Reports (Scholastic 1992). A full-time classroom teacher, Christine also presents at state, regional, and national conferences and provides in-services for school districts. Christine earned her M.A. Ed. from the University of Iowa. Her mantra is "Seek, nurture, and excite the reader inside every student!" She and her husband have two children, a daughter who attends Purdue University and a son who attends Texas A&M.