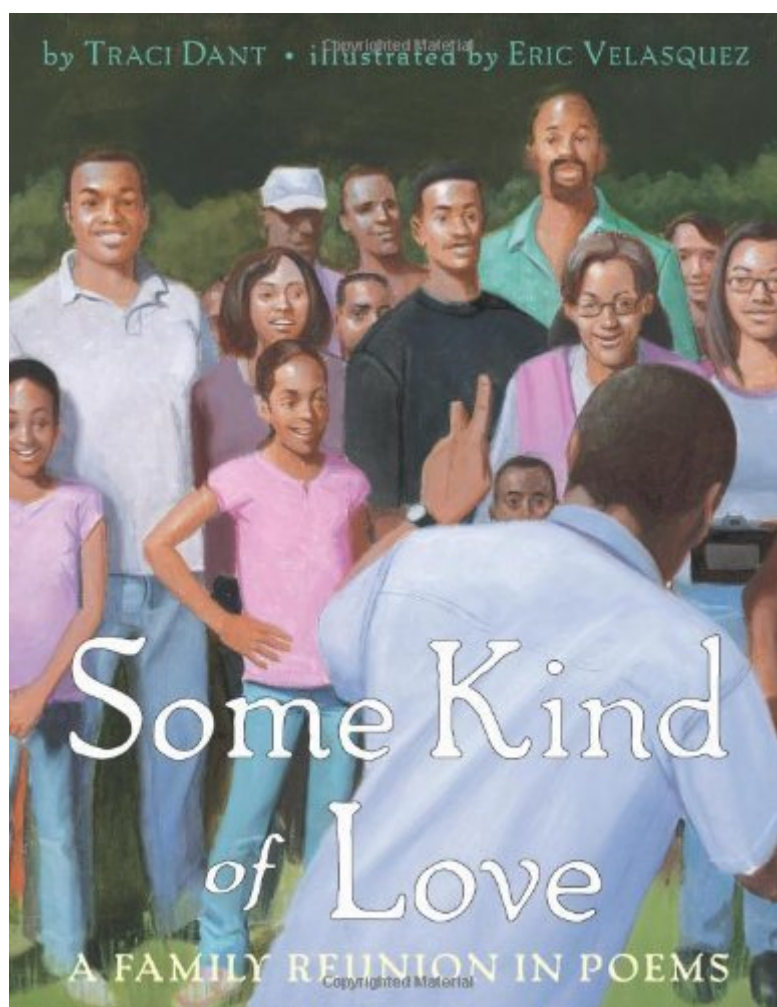


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# Some Kind Of Love



## Synopsis

Every summer, relatives (old and young, big and small) come together from all over the country for a reunion. All have one thing in common: their love for each other. They sleep wherever there is room. They eat and laugh and tell stories and remember. And a nine-year old boy captures it all in his words. This beautiful, inspirational collection of poems by newcomer Traci Dant is matched with the extraordinary paintings of acclaimed illustrator Eric Velasquez. *Some Kind of Love* is a book for every family to treasure.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Every page in this book begins with the phrase "Must be some kind of love." This lends a sweetness to this look at a family reunion that matches the sense of family and appreciation for relatives. However, the story is told from the viewpoint of a 9-year-old boy, which makes me wonder would a boy of that age talk of "some kind of love" quite so incessantly? It's more of something an adult would say, or perhaps a little girl imitating an adult. So I'm not sure who the book is aimed at. Probably younger children, and since it is a picture book, it's certainly appropriate for preschool

children and first graders. The boy and his family appear to be African American, but the appeal is beyond one ethnic group. Many children are aware of their extended families and are lucky enough to have cousins. Having mentioned ethnicity, I should mention that the illustrations are not caricatures and show warmth and respect. They are colorful, nicely drawn, and balanced in composition. They match the story line and bring the ideas to life. Very well done!

I bought this book to use as a read aloud and was particularly drawn by the fact that it was poetry that centered around an African American family. The pictures are beautiful and the content is well written. I found myself touched and tearing as I read these passages because of the memories and feelings that surfaced as I relived cherished moments of my childhood. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a book on family values and relations, a book of poetry, and/or a book to discuss feelings of love and togetherness. It is accessible to youth and enjoyable for the teacher and parents. We truly loved this book!

This children's picture book uses short prose-poems and full-color oil-on-linen illustrations to tell the story of an African-American family reunion -- the social activities that you can see, and the underlying love ... that, it turns out, you can actually see, too. It's narrated in the perspective of a 10(ish)-year-old boy, though the voice and the details call a girl/an adult much more to mind -- which is fine, because that may be you, reading this book to a child. Good luck getting through it without a catch in your voice :) My family will gather for a reunion in a few weeks and I was interested to read this book to heighten our anticipation (which it did) and maybe even deepen our experience of the actual event. More than a book about how fun a reunion is, this is about how important family is.

I enjoyed all of the poems in this book. I've chosen several to read at our family reunion in July. Traci did an outstanding job in showing the joy and fun of her reunion memories. That's what we all want is to have fun, find joy and are eagerly anticipating the next gathering.

This selection of free-form poems shows snapshots of family get-togethers: crowded fish-fries at humble houses; joyful fishing in the too-hot sun; waiting, anticipating for relatives to come; cramming into beds, chairs, and other furniture; becoming best friends with the most tenuous of relations. While these are told from the perspective of a 9-year-old African American boy, they are interesting in how many transcend any cultural considerations, and how some have strong regional aspects. They are good pieces to read and reflect on as a family. This sweet collection of poems

that would make a good gift.

I put this book aside to really take a deep look at it, but when I went to get it, it was gone. I asked for it back and my son brought it into the room. Then when I sat down later to take a look at it again, it was gone! My daughter just brought it into the room and told me that she read it from cover to cover and enjoyed it very much. She is 14. The artwork is really beautiful in this book and I must say that it is a book that will be precious to anyone in the family. It reaches out across the common bond of family in many cultures who value family. The poems are simple but take you back to a simple time where you can enjoy simple family experiences with the family in the book. As my daughter put it, "It makes you feel like you are not reading a book, but you are actually taking part with the family in their reunion." She is right. This is a precious book that makes you stop and think and pause to embrace a simpler time and life that is so easily passed by these days of hyper electronic media and entertainment obsessions. This simple family reunion is a breath of fresh air in a plastic world. I highly recommend it to read to children, but also to the entire family.

This book is just okay for me. I think the writing is nice, and that this is probably a real treasure for the author's family, whom the book is written about. It is kind of cool how each poem starts with the exact same phrase, but at the same time it does get a little old. I'm not exactly sure who the audience is for this book. I think it would be boring for little ones, so maybe older kids? The poems, although each is a different length and has different amounts of words and syllables per line, all sound quite similar and so it feels a little boring and redundant as you're reading it. These are not the type of poems that I would read at my family reunion, or that I would quote or re-read again, just because they are written so specifically about the author's family. I don't know, this book just didn't really interest me that much.

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