

Mama's Dream Bakery

D'Amour Edwards¹

Abstract

The purpose of this children's book is to introduce the Appreciative Education framework to readers from a child's point of view. Walking readers through the framework via the curiosity of Jason, a six-year-old who loves to ask questions, each phase of the framework is referenced.

When Jason's mother came home and seemed to be unhappy, Jason wanted to know why. Unbeknownst to him but through the open-ended questions he asks his mother, he follows the Appreciative Education framework to find out why. Through his questions, Jason is able to make his mother smile, find out why she is sad, make her ponder and plan, and in the end be there for her new developments.

Keywords

Appreciative Education, Appreciative Advising, questions, children's book

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Mama's Dream Bakery

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By: D'Amour Edwards

***Dedicated to my Mother,
whose big dreams inspire
me to never think small.***



“Mama!”

“Hi, Mrs. Veronica.”

“Hi, Jason.
Hi, Sarah.”

Jason’s mom came home and seemed to be very tired. She greeted him, but he could tell something was different with his mom because of her greeting and her smile. She seemed sad.


“Bye, Sarah.
Thank you.
Have a good
night.”

“Bye,
Everyone.
See you on
Monday!”

She said thank you to Sarah, the
babysitter, and told her goodbye.

“Bye, Sarah!”



An illustration of a living room. A blue sofa is in the center. A woman with a pink jacket and black pants is sitting on the floor to the right of the sofa, looking towards a man sitting on the sofa. The man is wearing a black t-shirt and glasses. Above the sofa is a window with four panes. The text "Get it, Mama, because cars go 'beep beep'!" is written inside the window panes. The room has a light green wall and a wooden floor.

“Get it, Mama,
because cars
go 'beep
beep'!”

To try to cheer his mother up, Jason decided to tell her a knock-knock joke his friend Jake had told him in class today.

“Hi, Mama,” Jason said, “Knock, knock.”

“Who is there, Jason?” she said.


“Cargo,”

“Cargo who?”

“No, car go ‘beep beep’!”

His mother sincerely chuckled at the joke and Jason laughed along with her, restating the punchline.

“Get it, Mama, because cars go 'beep beep'!”



“How was
your day,
Mama?”

“Not so
good, Baby.”

Although the joke made her laugh, Jason could still tell that his mom looked sad.

“How was your day, Mama?” he asked.

Jason’s mom told him that her day was not so good. She had lost her job as the high school registrar. Although Jason did not really understand what that job was, he knew his mom had that job for a long time.



Jason, being a six-year-old boy, was always curious. He loved asking lots of questions in class and at home, so at this moment he decided to do just that. He was curious about this job that his mom had lost.

He asked the following questions one at a time and his mom answered each one back quickly.

“Will you miss the job?” asked Jason.

“Yes,” said his Mom.

“What did you learn at your job?”

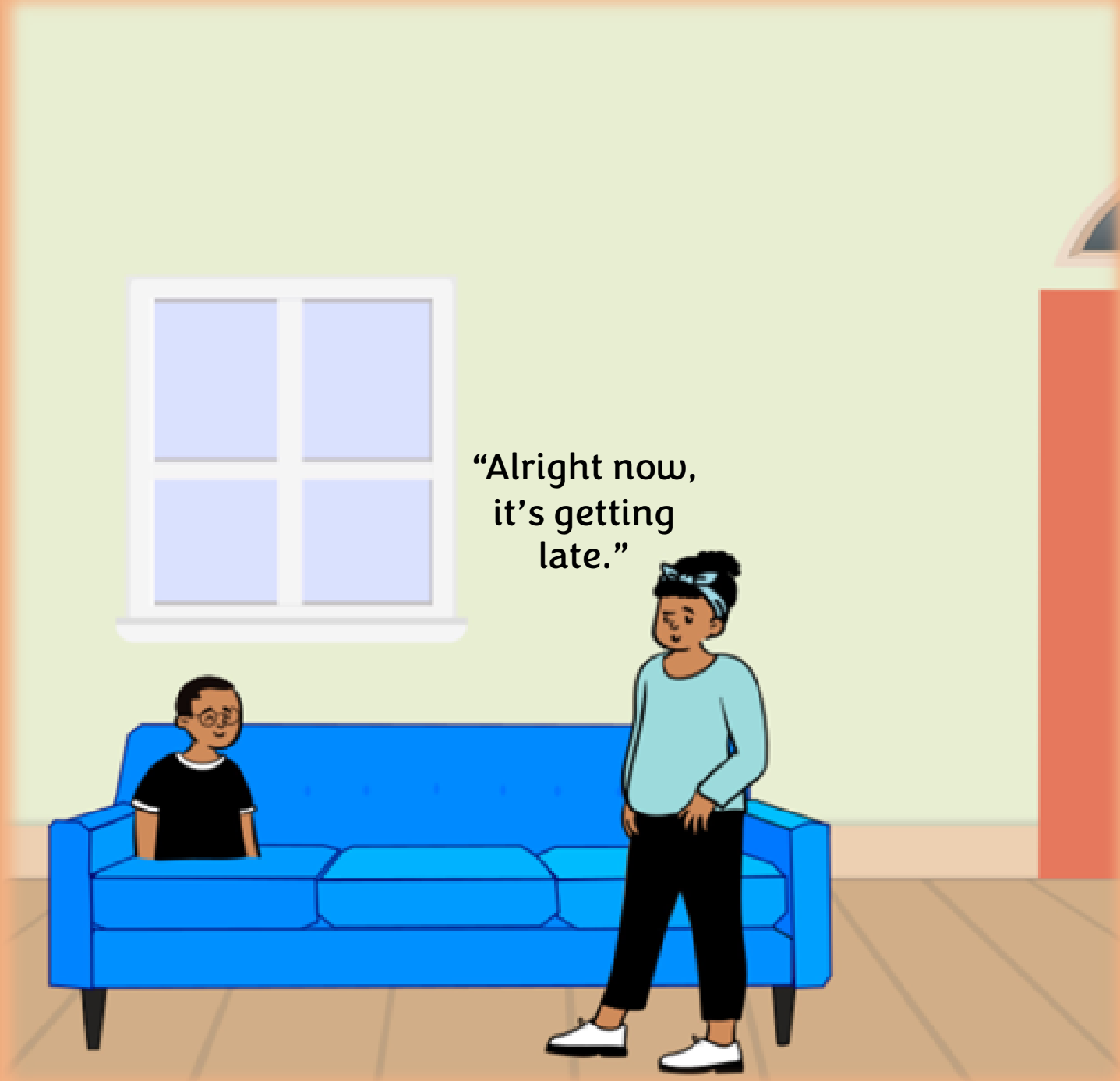
“How to work with different people.”

“Did you like your job?”

“Of course, that’s what I studied to become.”

“What did you like most about your job?”

“I liked the people.”



“Alright now,
it’s getting
late.”

After Jason asked his last question, his mom told him that it was getting late and time to go to bed. Jason tried to object, but his mom would not have it. She said he needed a good night's rest for his swimming practice the next day.



“Please,
Mama, just
one more
question...”

“One more,
okay?”

As Jason’s mom helped him get ready for bed, Jason could not stop thinking about his mom’s answers. He had so many more questions that he wanted to ask about his mom’s job. As he began to ask another question, his mom said to save it for tomorrow.

“Please, Mama, just one more question...” Jason begged.

She told him, “One more” so Jason asked,

“Since you do not have the ‘rawr-jar-ster’ job anymore, what job would you like to get now?”

Jason’s mom said she would hope to become a registrar at a different school. But she let him know not to worry about it and ended by saying, “Good night, Baby.”

“Good night, Mama,” yawned Jason.



As Jason's mom, Veronica, was getting ready for bed she could not help but think over her son's question. She thought about her life and remembered she had taken culinary classes in high school and nearly forgot that she intended to become a baker but felt it would be a hard career to pursue.

The next day, Jason's mom told him that his last question stayed with her all night.

"What question, Mama?" Jason asked her, quite confused.

She reminded him of the question. The question of what job she would like to have now. She told Jason that when she had the time to think about it, she did not want to be a registrar. Instead, she wanted to open her own bakery. She had even dreamed of owning a bakery last night, she told him.

Jason looked at his mom with so much joy and exclaimed, "Wow, Mama! That is a great idea!" "Yes, do it! You make the best cookies and cupcakes for me, and everyone will love yours, too!"



"Yes, do it!"



“But
Mama...”



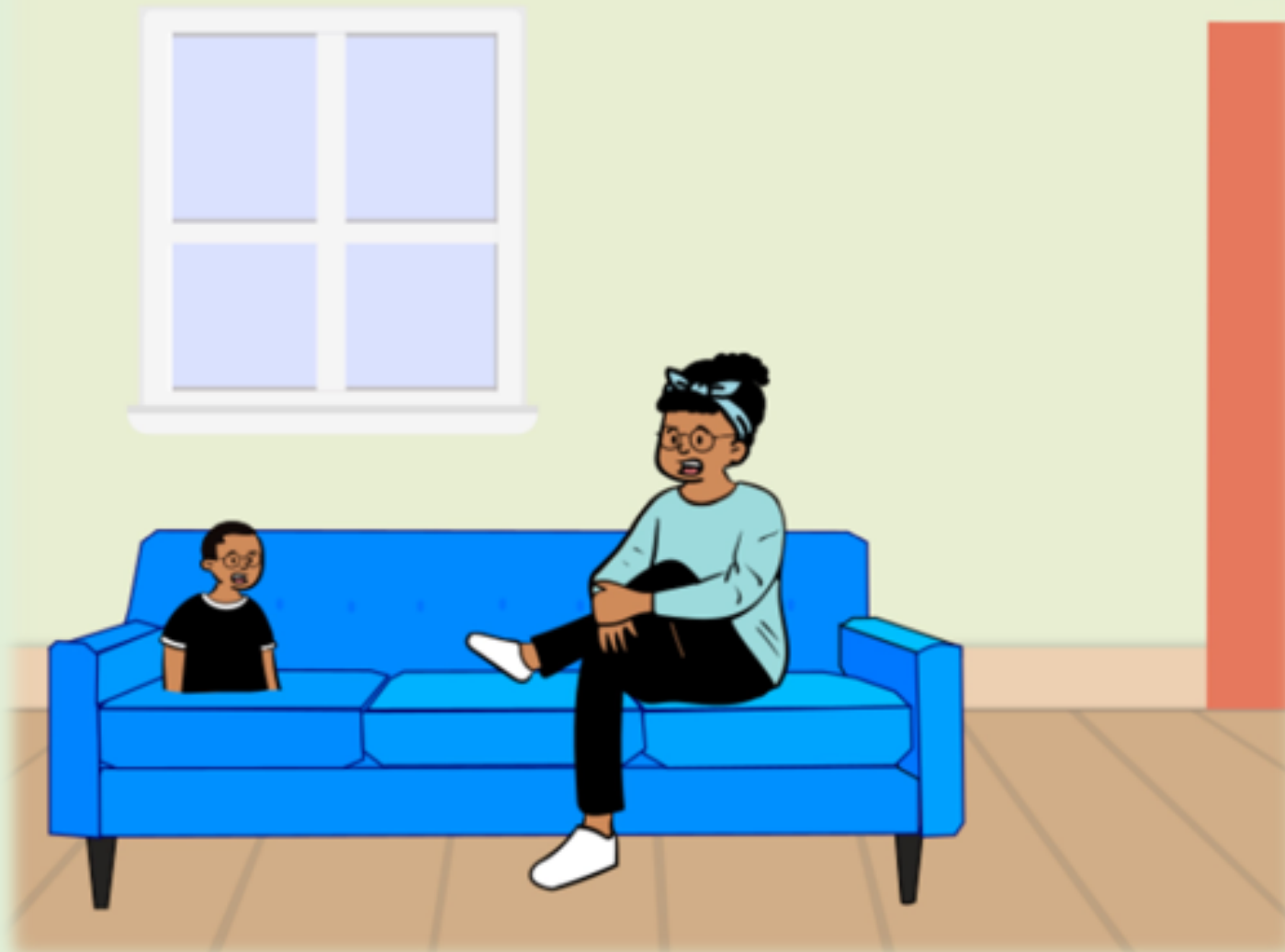
His mom told him that she could not just do it because opening a bakery was not an easy thing to do. Jason was confused. His mom made all kinds of desserts so he wondered why could she not just open a store and make a lot of desserts?

“But Mama, your desserts are the best. All my friends like it when you make desserts.”

“My favorite part is when I get to help you in the kitchen when you are baking” he told his mom.

He stopped to think and then asked her some questions. Jason’s mom took a moment to answer back. He realized she did not answer the questions as fast as she did yesterday, and he wondered why.

His mom then answered his questions.



“If it was easy, how would you do it?”

“I am not sure, but it would not hurt to look into it.”

“Did you want to open a bakery when you were little?”

“Yes, ever since I was as young as you and baking with Grandma.”

“I can see you being the best baker in the world, do you see that?”

She laughed at his question before she answered his next.

“Do you like baking more than your other job?”

“I believe I do. I have liked baking for as long as I have known what it was.”

“Is opening a bakery your dream like how mine is to be a firefighter?”



With Jason's last question she answered,
"Yes, it was."
But then paused and corrected herself,
"Yes, it *is*."

Jason noticed that with each answer his mom's face brightened. They then heard a knock at the door. It was Jake and his mom ready to take him to swim practice.

"You should do it, Mama, you are so good at it," he told her as he left the house.

With her son's last encouraging statement in her mind, Veronica started researching how to open a bakery. In that time, she was able to develop a business plan, investigate funding options, and review potential spaces.



When Jason came back home, he was excited to tell his mom the good news.

“Mama, you have to open your bakery soon. Everybody at swim practice likes that you will be opening a bakery! You have to open your bakery soon, Mama, so my friends and their Mamas and Daddies can buy from you!”

Jason stopped for a moment and thought before asking his mom some more questions:

“Where will your bakery be?”

“Why is it not easy to start a bakery?”

“Will Grandma be able to help you because she likes baking?”

“Grandma!”



“Mama, I am going to call Grandma,” Jason told his mom. “I am going to call her right now.”

Jason ran to get the phone and call his grandma. Before she could say hello to him, he blurted out, “Grandma, Mama's going to open a bakery!”

Jason gave the phone to his mom and watched as she and his grandma talked. He did not know what most of the conversation was about. He saw his mom get happy, then sad. She kept saying “money” and “bank,” but Jason did not know why. He even heard her mention his Uncle Tony. After some time had passed, his Mom's face seemed to brighten. She said the words “bank” and “loan” and seemed happy with what his grandma was saying.



**“You did it,
Mama! I
knew you
could!”**

Several months passed and Jason was with his mom every step of the way as she started her own business. He got to help pick the location for her bakery and even the name, Mama's Dream Bakery.

Finally, the day had come! All the hard work had paid off. Jason, his mom, his grandma, and Uncle Tony got to see his mom's bakery on opening day and cheer her on at the Grand Opening. It seemed as though everyone in the community had come to the opening of his mom's new bakery. He could even see his friends and their moms!

“You did it, Mama! I knew you could!” Jason exclaimed proudly.



The End