

LESSON PLAN

OHANA MEANS FAMILY

by Ilima Loomis, illustrated by Kenard Pak

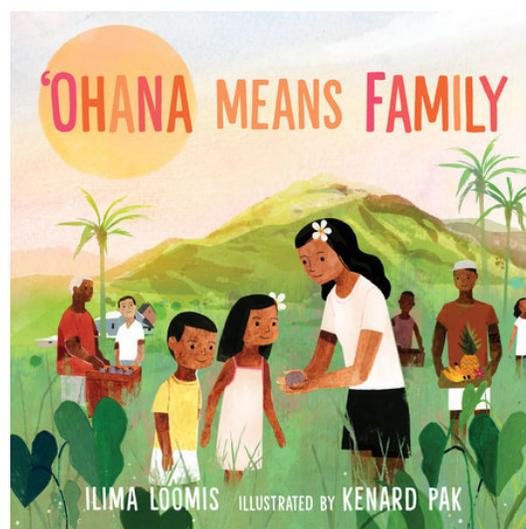
★ “An incredible book to share with every member of your ‘ohana.’ ”
—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

★ "The importance of this native Hawaiian tradition is revealed through Loomis' and Pak's textual and visual re-creations. . . . This book [honors] the culture without cliché."—*Booklist*, Starred Review

ABOUT THE BOOK

Join the family, or ohana, as they farm taro for poi to prepare for a traditional luau celebration in this breathtakingly illustrated read-aloud with a poetic text.

The backmatter includes a glossary of Hawaiian terms used in the book, a note on kalo and poi, and an author's note.



NEAL PORTER BOOKS • 9780823443260 • Ages 4-8

A tale from a diverse culture; Hawaiian lu'au

Guided Reading Level: M

Grade: 2

Interest level: K-4

BEFORE READING

1. Discuss the title, and front and back cover illustrations.
2. Write OHANA on the board. Discuss the meaning of “FAMILY.”
3. Notice that the front and back covers make up a continuous picture.
4. What does the cover illustration tell us about the setting, characters and what is happening in the story? Make predictions.

Setting	Characters	What is happening



Teacher: This is a story about the tradition of the Hawaiian lu’au, including homegrown food, an ancient land, a loving family

Ask students the following questions:

- How does your family celebrate when you get together?
- Does your family have any special food traditions?
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ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What is culture?
2. Why should we study different cultures?
3. How are cultures similar and different?
4. What characteristics can we study about cultures?
5. How do beliefs and values of individuals affect society?
6. How do geography, climate, and natural resources affect the way people live and work?

PICTURE WALK

- Take a picture walk through the book. Discuss the relationship between the illustrations and what is happening in the story.
- What pictures are repeated throughout the story?

WORD WORK

- Read the first two pages to figure out the meaning of the vocabulary words.
- New Hawaiian Vocabulary words: **Kalo, poi, ohana, lu’au**
 “This is the **poi** / For our **ohana’s lu’au**. / This is the **kalo** / to make the **poi** / for our **ohana’s lu’au**.”

DURING READING

1. Read the story to the group without interruption.
2. Read the story again. This time think about:
 - Key details in the story; *who, what, where, when, why, and how*
 - What is the central message of the story?
 - What kind of story is this?
 - Describe the characters in the story. How are they related?
 - Describe how words and phrases; regular beats, rhymes, and repeated lines supply rhythm and meaning in the story
 - What is the overall structure of the story?
 - Describe how the beginning introduces the story and how the ending concludes the action.
3. How does the author use literal and nonliteral meanings as well as repetition to enhance meaning and tone of the story?
4. How are the people, land, water and world connected in the story?
 “Poi / Kalo / Mud / Water clear and cold / The hands so wise and old / The land that’s never been sold / Streams of sunlit gold / Rain in the valley fold / Wind in which stories are told / Sun bright and bold / Ohana, family we love and hold”



AFTER READING

- Research—Create a PowerPoint Presentation of all the new things students have learned.
- Hawaiians have cultivated “kalo” for more than a thousand years and have used every part of this nutritious food. Why is “kalo” considered an honored elder brother as well as a food source in Hawaiian culture?

Have a class Lu’au!

- Design and create a lu’au invitation.
- Create a menu, decorations, and fun activities.
- Write a paragraph about the Author’s Purpose for writing *Ohana Means Family* to share during the lu’au.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ARTIST

Ilima Loomis is an award-winning journalist and author, who has contributed to publications like *Discover*, *Popular Science*, and *National Geographic Traveler*. Born and raised in Hawaii, she lives on Maui. *Ohana Means Family* is her first book published by Neal Porter Books/Holiday House.

Kenard Pak has illustrated several acclaimed picture books, including *Ohana Means Family* by Ilima Loomis, *Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?* by Rita Gray and a sequence of seasonal books that began with *Goodbye Summer*, *Hello Autumn*, which he also wrote. He has worked as an animator on many films with Dreamworks, Walt Disney Feature Animation, and Laika. Pak lives and works in San Francisco, California.

Guide written by Marla Conn, MS, Ed., reading/literacy specialist and educational consultant

