Red, White, and Blue Goodbye
Written By: Sarah Wones Tomp

Goal: As her father, a Navy man, prepares to go to sea, a young girl describes her feelings about his departure. She doesn't want to say good-bye, and he comforts her by pointing out certain images—the red flag on their mailbox, white clouds in the sky, and blue water—that will help her remember him.

1. Show the cover of the book and ask the children to read the title.

2. What is the little girl holding?

3. Read the story stopping from time to time to ask:

   a. What service is the little girl’s Daddy in?
   b. Who does the little girl take with her when she runs away?
   c. Where does she hide?
   d. Why do you think her Daddy is mad?
   e. How do they make milkshakes?
   f. What did they put in them?
   g. What did Daddy tell her about the flag on the mailbox?
   h. Have you ever seen a sea bag?
   i. Do you think you could fit into a sea bag?
   j. What does Daddy say about the clouds?
   k. Where did the little girl hide the boots?
   l. What does Daddy say about the sea?
   m. What did Daddy give her to remember him?
   n. What was everyone holding when Daddy deployed?
   o. What does the little girl draw for her Daddy?
   p. What does the little girl wave at in the sky?
4. What does the story teach us?

Activity:

- **Bring in a sea bag to show the youth how large it is and allow the youth to climb in it.** If you have more than one, you can do sack races. Bring in extra clothes and items to place in the bag to see how much you can place in the bag.

- **The youth will need to sit in a circle.** One youth starts, “In my Grandma’s Attic, I found_________” (something that starts with an ‘A’). The next youth repeats the first and finds something with ‘B’ the next youth repeats the last two youth and finds something with ‘C’. The pattern continues until the alphabet has been used. This is the same concept as the above except have the youth pack their Dad or Mom’s duffle bag for deployment. i.e. “My Dad was deploying so in his duffle bag he packed an Apple. My dad was deploying so in his duffle bag he packed a Shirt.” etc.

- **The youth could make milkshakes from ice cream with their favorite fillings.** Share the things the youth have done to remember their service member if they are deployed.

---

Lesson Plan written by:
Anne Kessler – Illinois National Guard Child/Youth Services Coordinator  
22979 N. Bowmen Ave. | Danville IL. 61834 | (217)-622-0143