

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING A NOTE FROM AVI

“Nothing is more common, or uncommon, than being a son, a father, a stepfather, a grandfather, or for that matter a grandchild. Yet each relationship, when lived, is unique. I have been – and continue to fill – all of those categories, but it is hard to say from which position I learned most. I did not have a good relationship with my father (the story ‘Beat Up’ is based on something that really happened). I think I learned most about fatherhood by being a stepfather, because there is nothing automatic about such relationships, and it took a conscious effort to fill that role. There have been successes and, to be sure, failures. There has been loss – loss of grandfathers, a father, and a son. Whereas we tend to think of fatherhood as having most to do with kids, it is a lifelong process. Over time it can get less demanding, but it never stops being complex.

“A friend who read this collection suggested that it was more like an anthology than a collection

by one writer, that each story was different from the others, each with a different voice. The title of the collection, and the phrase from which it derives, refer to the love a parent has for his or her child. This is something I truly believe in. And more: it’s easy to love your child. Sometimes it’s hard to convince them that you do. But then, I suspect that if you are a parent, you are a different parent to each of your children. Insofar as writers are parents of their stories, I am happy that all of these stories are my own.”



PHOTO BY KATHERINE WARDE

AVI is one of the most celebrated authors writing for children today, having received the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award*, the Scott O’Dell Award, the Christopher Award, the Newbery Medal, and two Newbery Honors. He lives in Colorado.

[#mostimportantthing](#)



CANDLEWICK PRESS
www.candlewick.com

CANDLEWICK PRESS