

Incarcerated Parents

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

- Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me** by Daniel Beaty, 2013 Picture Book BEATY
Story of a young boy who wakes up one morning to find that his father is gone. But his father has written him a letter to help him cope and navigate his new reality.
- Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation** Picture Book DANTICAT
by Edwidge Danticat, 2015
When Saya's mother is sent to jail as an illegal immigrant, she sends her daughter a cassette tape with a song and a bedtime story, which inspires Saya to write a story of her own--one that just might bring her mother home.
- Milo Imagines the World** by Matt de la Pena, 2021 Picture Book DE LA PENA
While Milo and his sister travel to a detention center to visit their incarcerated mother, he observes strangers on the subway and draws what he imagines their lives to be.
- My Brother is Away** by Sara Greenwood, 2022 Picture Book GREENWOOD
With her older brother in prison, a young girl copes with the confusing feelings his absence creates. She is anxious when it comes time to visit him, but she quickly realizes that while his life may be changed, his love for her has not.
- Missing Daddy** by Mariame Kaba, 2019 Picture Book KABA
Story of a young girl who shares how her beloved father's absence affects her life. She looks forward to the days when she visits her father in prison.
- See you Soon** by Mariame Kaba, 2022 Picture Book KABA
Six-year-old Queenie has many worries when she is separated from her mother due to substance dependence and incarceration. A beautifully written and illustrated story about intergenerational family love.

JUVENILE FICTION

- The Swag Is in the Socks** by Kelly J. Baptist, 2021 J Fiction BAPTIST
Twelve-year-old Xavier Moon is most comfortable keeping to himself. When his great-uncle gives him some outlandish socks, he gets the courage to step into the spotlight and be different.

Fighting Words by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, 2020

J Fiction BRADLEY

After Della's mother goes to prison, her mother's boyfriend takes her in along with her older sister, Suki. When Suki attempts suicide, Della speaks out about the sexual abuse they've suffered at the hands of their mother's boyfriend.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks, 2020

J Fiction MARKS

Zoe Washington loves to bake and is working hard at her bakery internship. On her twelfth birthday, Zoe receives a letter from her father who is in prison for a terrible crime.

Born Behind Bars by Padma Venkatraman, 2021

J Fiction VENKATRAMAN

Kabir has been in jail since the day he was born, because his mom is serving time for a crime she didn't commit. When Kabir discovers that he is leaving to be sold into slavery, he runs away and lives the dangerous life of a street kid.

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson, 2018

J Fiction WOODSON

Six teens are given the opportunity to participate in a weekly talk without adults. Together, they feel safe to share their personal stories, hopes and dreams.

TEEN FICTION**Tyrell** by Coe Booth, 2006

Fiction BOOTH

Fifteen-year-old Tyrell, who is living in a Bronx homeless shelter with his spaced-out mother and his younger brother, tries to avoid temptation so he does not end up in jail like his father.

Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas, 2021

Fiction THOMAS

Maverick feels strongly about family ties, making choices he feels necessary to help support his mom while his King father serves time. As he cares for his infant child and prepares for another child on the way, Maverick must decide if he wants to go straight or continue living his dangerous gang life.

TEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL**Hey, Kiddo** by Jarrett Krosoczka, 2018

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Family is complicated for Jarrett. In this graphic novel memoir, Jarrett tells the story of being raised by his grandparents while his drug addicted mother is in and out of rehab and his father's identity is a mystery.