

Abuse and Complex Living Situations

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

My Quiet Ship by Hallee Adelman, 2018.

Picture Book ADELMAN

When the fighting at home is bad, Quinn escapes to his special place the "Quiet Ship" where he is the Commander and he can shut out the yelling that makes him sad and scared. (Grades PreK-2)

Hands Are Not for Hitting by Martine Agassi, 2002.

Picture Book AGASSI

Children who have been abused or witnessed abuse can mimic what they have seen. This book offers alternative solutions for dealing with anger and frustration. (Grades PreK-K)

Far Apart, Close in Heart by Becky Birtha, 2017.

Picture Book BIRTHA

Children who have a parent in prison express their feelings, and how they stay in touch through writing letters and visits. (Grades K-3)

Angryman by Gro Dahle, 2019.

Picture Book DAHLE

A young boy named Boj has a father who can be very angry and violent. When he is, no one is safe. Until Boj does something very powerful--he tells a trusted adult. (Grades 3-5)

Sad the Dog by Sandy Fussell, 2015.

Picture Book FUSSELL

"Sad" the dog's humans care for his basic needs, but often yell and criticize him. When his humans move away without him he is heartbroken until a new family makes his life complete. (Grades 1-4)

Still a Family by Barbara Reeves Sturgis, 2017.

Picture Book REEVES STURGIS

A girl and her mother stay at the family homeless shelter, and her father stays at the men's shelter. But they still find ways to come together as a family (Grades PreK-2)

JUVENILE FICTION

Louisiana's Way Home by Kate DiCamillo, 2018.

Fiction DICAMILLO

Louisiana's granny wakes her in the middle of the night and says they have to leave home immediately. Alone and stranded in a small town, she looks for a place to call home. (Grades 4-6)

Chirp by Kate Messner, 2020.

Fiction MESSNER

A young gymnast hides a sexual abuse secret as she makes friends in a new town. (Grades 4-8)

Stay by Bobbie Pyron, 2019.

Fiction PYRON

Piper's family moves to a homeless shelter in a new city where she must learn to trust new friends to help her save a beloved dog, Baby, from being taken from her human. (Grades 3-7)

Ghost by Jason Reynolds, 2016.

Fiction REYNOLDS

Gifted runner Ghost finds his goals are challenged by his past with a violent father. (Grades 4-9)

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams, 2019. Fiction WILLIAMS
Genesis's family struggles to maintain housing, due to her father's gambling and alcohol abuse. A teacher uncovers a hidden talent in Genesis, and helps her learn to love herself. (Grades 6-9)

NON-FICTION

Once I Was Very Very Scared by Chandra Ghosh Ippen, 2017. J 155.41246 I64o
A group of animals share their experiences in being very scared, and how they reacted. They share both their initial reaction, and how they learned coping skills from grown-ups. (PreK-2)

Making it Better: Activities for Children Living in a Stressful World J 372.21 O28m2
by Barbara Oehlberg, 2014.
Activities to help children process and heal from trauma-informed life events. (Grades PreK-3)

Free Lunch by Rex Ogle, 2019. J B O351f
Recounting his lived experiences from sixth grade, Ogle chronicles the brutal consequences of poverty, violence and abuse inflicted on himself and his family. (Grades 5-8)

Let's Talk about Body Boundaries, Consent and Respect J 362.76 S215L
by Jayneed Sanders, 2018.
Teaches the concepts of body ownership and appropriate body boundaries, respectful relationships, feelings and emotions, choices and recognizing bullying behaviors. (PreK-4)

TEEN FICTION

Black Girl Unlimited by Echo Brown, 2020. Fiction BROWN
Believing that she and her mother are wizards helps Echo cope with poverty, hunger, her mother's drug abuse, and much more. (Grades 9-12)

If These Wings Could Fly by Kyrie McCauley, 2020. Fiction MCCAULEY
Leighton struggles between her promise to watch over her sisters and her desperation to flee her father's on-going abusive behavior. (Grades 8-12)

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds, 2017 Fiction REYNOLDS
Fifteen-year-old Will is tempted to avenge the shooting death of his brother – can a series of elevator interactions change his mind? (Grades 9-12)

TEEN NON FICTION

You Too? by Janet Gurtler, editor, 2020. T 362.88 Y67
No young person should be subject to sexual assault or made to feel unsafe. This collection of personal stories reminds readers to be strong and never be silenced by abuse. (Grades 8-12)

Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, 2018. T 741.5 K93h
A graphic novel about the author's experience growing up in a family grappling with addiction, finding people who helped him get through it, and how his art helped him survive. (Grades 8-12)