

Tough Stuff

Divorce

**Two Homes* by Claire Masurel

Alex has two homes, one where he lives with his mom and one where he lives with his dad. Both homes are filled with love and both parents love him no matter where he is.

**Mama and Daddy Bear's Divorce* by Cornelia Maude Spelman

Dinah's mom and dad are getting divorced. This book gives a gentle explanation of some of the things that may happen when parents divorce, but emphasizes that Mommy is still your mommy and Daddy is still your daddy.

Deployment

**While You Are Away* by Eileen Spinelli

Three different families deal with the deployment of a mother or father. The children wonder what their parent is doing and talk about what they do to make the separation a little bit easier. The book ends with the parents arriving home!

Homelessness

**A Shelter in Our Car* by Monica Gunning

Mom is working hard to find work whenever she can while going to school, but for now, she and Zettie are sleeping in their car. Zettie tries to be brave and remember how much her mom loves her. Eventually, mom finds a job and they are able to afford a room.

**Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting

A boy and his father live in an airport. They watch the people come and go and yearn for the time they will be able to leave the airport too.

Incarceration

**Visiting Day* by Jacqueline Woodson

A little girl and her grandma go to visit her Dad in prison. The mixture of excitement and sadness is evident, but so is the little girl's love for her father and hope that he will be home soon.

Death

**Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs* by Tomie dePaola

Tommy's grandmother and great-grandmother live together, one stays upstairs most of the time, and the other is downstairs. Tommy loves spending time with both of them. One day, Tommy's mother explains that Nana Upstairs has died, and that means she won't be here anymore. Many, many years later, Nana Downstairs dies, and now Tommy has two Nana Upstairs.

**The Purple Balloon* by Chris Raschka

Dying is hard, and talking about dying is hard. A gentle book well suited for a child witnessing the decline and death of a loved one, or a child facing death themselves, this book points out the importance of helpers and helping in many ways.

* indicates a book in our library

**The Rough Patch* by Brian Lies

After Fox's beloved dog dies, he lets his garden, that the two used to tend together fall into ruins. With time though, the hurt passes and he gets excited about gardening and life again.

**Ida, Always* by Caron Levis

Polar bears Gus and Ida live together at the zoo. One day the zoo keeper comes to Gus and tells him that Ida is sick and they can't make her better. She won't hurt, but she will be tired and weak and eventually she will die. Gus and Ida are upset, but eventually settle in to a new pattern as Ida gets weaker and weaker. When Ida dies Gus is very sad, but slowly comes to realize that Ida will always be with him.