



Books and More

A Kids' Bibliography on Divorce

Preschool and early readers

Boegehold, B. *Daddy Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. Racine, WI: Western Publishing Co., 1985. A picture book about a young girl who must adjust to life without her father.

Fassler, D., Lash, M. & Ives, S.D. *Changing Families: A Guide for Kids and Grown-ups*. Burlington, VT: Waterfront, 1988. Grades P-3. A picture book of children's drawings. The first half explores children's feelings; the second part focuses on stepfamilies.

Magid, K. & Schreiberman, W. *Divorce Is... A Kid's Coloring Book*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publications, 1980.

Stinson, Kathy. *Mom and Dad Don't Live Together Anymore*. Firefly, 1984. Ages 3-7.

Galloway, Priscilla. *Jennifer Has Two Daddies*. Firefly, 1984. Ages 3-7.

Girard, Linda Walvoord. *At Daddy's on Saturday*. Witmar, 1987. Ages 3-8.

Vigna, Judith. *Mommy and Me by Ourselves Again*. Whitman, 1987. Ages 4-8.

Primary school

Hurwitz, Johanna. *DeDe Takes Charge*. Morrow, 1984. 121 pp. Interest level: 3-5 grades; reading level: 4.0 grade. DeDe is a likable, resourceful, and resilient heroine who delivers a realistic and reassuring message of survival in the face of divorce.

Ives, S., Fassler, D. & Lash, M. *The Divorce Workbook: A Guide for Kids and Families*. Burlington, VT: Waterfront Books, 1985. P-6 grades. Explains marriage through separation, divorce, and related issues such as custody, child support, mediation, and visitation.

Jukes, Mavis. *No One Is Going to Nashville*. Knopf, 1983. Interest level: 2-5 grades; reading level: 2.2 grade. This is a satisfying story about a friendship that develops between a little girl named Sonia and her stepmother Annette, when a lost dog enters their lives. Through brief text and black-and-white illustrations, the author develops strong characters full of warmth and humor.

Krasny-Brown, L. & Brown, M. *Dinosaurs Divorce: A Guide for Changing Families*. Boston: Joy Street Books, 1986. Grades 6+. The book explores divorce, visitation and stepfamilies in terms of a dinosaur family.

Kremetz, J. *How It Feels When Parents Divorce*. New York: Knopf, 1988. 4+ grades. Children age 10 and older tell their own stories about divorce (with photographs).

Navarra, T. *Playing It Smart: What to Do When You're on Your Own*. New York: Barron's, 1989. Latch-key-related topics in a post-divorce setting from what to do if a child is home alone and hears a strange noise to keeping promises.

Park, B. *Don't Make Me Smile*. New York: Knopf, 1981. A boy and his parents explore his anger about the divorce.

Petersen, P.J. *I Want Answers and a Parachute*. Simon & Schuster, 1993, 101 pp. Interest level: 2-4 grades; reading level 3.0 grade. The important message of this coping with divorce and stepparents story is "be yourself."

Porte, Barbara Ann. *Fat Fanny, Beanpole Bertha, and the Boys*. Orchard, 1991, 101 pp. Interest level: 3-5 grades; reading level: 3.6 grade. Fanny's father disappeared on a business trip over the Bermuda Triangle, and Bertha's parents have sworn her to secrecy about their two-year-old divorce. These tense heroines learn to cope with their problems as the story unfolds.

Middle school

Brogan, J.P. & Maiden, U. *The Kids' Guide to Divorce*. New York: Fawcett Crest, 1986. A sophisticated discussion for teens about potential divorce-related problem areas.

Byars, Betsy. *Cracker Jackson*. New York: Viking, 1985, 146 pp. Interest level: 5-7 grades; reading level: 4.5 grade. Comic relief is woven into this story, in which the difficult topics of divorce and domestic violence are deftly handled.

Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. New York: Morrow, 1983, 134 pp. Interest level: 4-6 grades; reading level: 4.9 grade. This 1984 Newberry Award winner finds adolescent Leigh Botts coping with modern-day problems of divorce and being the new kid at school. Through his journal writing, he manages to deal with his loneliness at school and his anger over his mother's unwillingness to reconcile.

Cleary, Beverly. *Strider*. New York: Morrow, 1991, 179 pp. Interest level: 5-8 grades; reading level: 4.6 grade. Leigh Botts is 14 and about to begin high school. At the beach one day, Leigh and his friend Barry find an abandoned dog and decide to

adopt him. They decide to take turns caring for him and devise a joint custody arrangement. A custody battle threatens their friendship.

List, J. *The Day the Loving Stopped: A Daughter's View of Her Parents' Divorce*. New York: Seaview Books, 1980: The author discusses childhood experiences of her parents' divorce.

Mayle, Peter. *Why Are We Getting a Divorce?* Harmony, 1988. Ages 8-12. Why parents get divorced, and how children can handle their feelings and the changes in their lives.

Neckman, Steven L. *When Mom and Dad Divorce*. Simon & Schuster 1986. Ages 8-14.

Naylor, Phyllis. *The Solomon System*. New York: Atheneum, 1983, 210 pp. Interest level: 5+ grades; reading level: 5.0 grade. Thirteen-year-old Ted Solomon realizes that the Solomon System is not working anymore when his parents announce that they are getting divorced, and his 16-year-old brother, Nory, seems to be growing up and apart. Nory helps Ted understand that their changing relationship is normal and helps him cope with their new altered family.

Voigt, Cynthia. *A Solitary Blue*. New York: Atheneum, 1983. 189 pp. Interest level: 5-8 grades; reading level: 4.8 grade. The complexity and pain of family relationships are captured in this compelling story about 11-year-old Jeff Greene. When he was seven, his mother left him and his father to pursue her activist life. Jeff struggles to understand his mother as he grows in his relationship with his father.

High school

Herzog, Alison Cragin. *Shadow on the Pond*. Little Brown, 1984. Ages 12+

McGuire, Paula. *Putting It Together: Teenagers Talk About Family Breakups*. Delacorte, 1987. Ages 12+

Rofes, E., ed. *The Kid's Book of Divorce: By, For and About Kids*. New York: Vintage Books, 1981. Interesting look at how teens view divorce.

For your parents

Galper Cohen, Miriam. *Long-Distance Parenting*. New York: NAL/Signet, 1989. Focuses on how to maintain long-distance parent-child relationships.

Lansky, Vicki. *Vicki Lansky's Divorce Book for Parents*. Deephaven, MN: The Book Peddlers, rev. 1996. 240 pp. \$5.99.