

Children's Reading List

Please find below a list of Children's books which in some way addresses the issue of imprisonment. Some of the books can be bought online second hand or new on websites such as www.amazon.co.uk or www.play.com. Alternatively you can ask your local library if they have a copy or order them through book stores. Where possible we have included a description of the book and an indication of the ages of the children for who the books are appropriate. If you have located any other books which you or your children found useful, please let us know so that we can add them to this list.

Mama Loves Me From Away

Ages 7+

By Pat Brisson

The following description has been taken from <http://www.boydsmillspress.com>: "Sugar and her Mama share something special—their birthdays! Sugar loves to hear the story about the day she was born. Mama has lots of other great stories, too. But when Mama has to go away, Sugar feels a terrible loss. She misses everything about her Mama—especially the stories. There are no shops in prison for Mama to buy a birthday present for Sugar, but Mama makes a unique gift for Sugar on their first birthday apart—something that will help bring them a little bit closer on the long days and nights apart. This is a heart-breaking, yet loving, story of a mother and child separated by a prison sentence, and how they try to stay in touch despite the physical distance between them"

Queenie Peavy

Ages 9 – 12

By Robert Burch

Synopsis from www.amazon.co.uk:

Tormented by taunts that her father is in prison, thirteen-year-old Queenie retaliates by causing a lot of trouble until she discovers something important about her father and herself.

Dad's in Prison

Ages 9 – 12

By Margaret Speed

Synopsis from www.amazon.co.uk:

"Dad's in Prison" tells the story of two brothers whose father is sent to prison. Narrated by the elder brother, the book describes the boys' experiences and emotions, during and after their father's arrest, including their first visit to prison.

Glennis, Before and After

Ages 8 – 12

By Patricia Calvert

The following description has been reproduced from **Publishers Weekly** (as appears on www.Amazon.com):

"Twelve-year-old Glennis compares her family to Humpty Dumpty "broken into a kazillion million pieces." After her father is jailed for committing a white-collar crime and her mother suffers a nervous breakdown, Glennis's brother and three sisters fly off in different directions to begin new lives in other people's homes. Glennis's phases of hope (when she still believes in her father's innocence), anger (when her father patiently explains his guilt) and determination to regain some of her losses are vividly and sensitively portrayed. Throughout this poignant novel, readers will recognize Glennis's inner strength as she learns to accept and forgive human failings"

Nine Candles

Ages 9 – 12

By Maria Testa

Synopsis from www.amazon.co.uk:

After visiting his mother in prison on his seventh birthday, Raymond wishes it were his ninth birthday when Mama has promised to be home with his dad and him.

Amber was Brave, Essie Was Smart

Ages 4 – 8

by Vera B Williams

The following description has been taken from www.kidsreads.com:

"AMBER WAS BRAVE, ESSIE WAS SMART is a great book for anyone who has a sister. And even if you don't have a sister, this book will make you wish you did. Amber and Essie are sisters, friends, confidantes and partners in survival in a struggling household where their mother has to work long hours just to make ends meet because their father did some bad things and went to jail. Amber and Essie are often left on their own and must fend for themselves in everything from teaching themselves to fixing their own food. The girls show amazing resourcefulness in accomplishing the basic tasks, such as bargaining for groceries or doing chores around the house.

Will Amber and Essie's family ever be reunited? Read this great new book and find out!"

Our Gracie Aunt

Ages 4 – 8

By Jacqueline Woodson and Jon J. Muth

The following description has been reproduced from www.amazon.co.uk:

Johnson and his sister, Beebee, seem to be all alone in the world. Their mama has gone away many times before, but something tells them this time she won't be coming back. Then a social worker comes and takes them to stay with their Aunt Gracie, whom they've never met. Johnson and Beebee are sceptical - who is this Aunt Gracie, and why would she want to take care of them? But most of all they worry about their mama. What will happen to her? Will they ever see her again? Warily, though, the children come to trust Aunt Gracie. And in the process, they learn what family is all about. This heart-wrenching look at the issues surrounding foster care is a poignant lesson in trust, forgiveness and the true meaning of family.

All Kinds of Families

Ages 4 – 8

By Norma Simon

This book presents traditional and non-traditional families in a positive light, including a family with someone in prison.

What Daddy Did

Teenagers

By Neal Shusterman

Reviews from www.amazon.co.uk written by the author:

An award-winning tale of the power of love and forgiveness

A Novel about two young boys trying to come to terms with their father killing their mother.

“Of all my novels, this has struck the deepest chord in readers, and has won more than a dozen awards, including being an ALA "Best Book," an ABA "Pick of the List," the winner of the "Oklahoma Sequoyah Award," and has made state lists in numerous states”

Who’s Guilty?

Teenagers

Published by Action for Prisoners Family

Free, though will charge for postage and packing

A pocket-sized booklet containing quotes from young people affected by imprisonment. It lists useful telephone numbers and websites for use by young people and those supporting them.

To order this booklet look at the “Publications” section on Action for Prisoners Families website, www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk

Finding Dad

Ages 8 – 11

By Daniel Lee

This book can be bought from the UK based charity “Action for Prisoners Families” (look at the “publications section” at www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk)

The following description has been taken from Action for Prisoners website: Finding Dad tells the story of 8-year old James Orchard who turns detective to find out the truth about his dad, who disappears with the police early one morning. James’ mum will only say that he has gone on a secret mission, sending James off into his imaginary world as he tries to track dad down. An exciting adventure story for all children.

Tommy’s Dad

Ages 4 – 7

By Emma Randle-Caprez

This book can be bought from the UK based charity “Action for Prisoners Families” (look at the “Publications” section at www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk)

The following description has been taken from Action for Prisoners website:

The story of a young boy and his sister whose father is sent to prison. It explores their feelings of loss, anger and frustration at not being told what’s going on, until their mother finally decides to take them to see their dad.

Danny's Mum**Ages 3 – 6**

By Action for Prisoners Families

This book can be bought from the UK based charity "Action for Prisoners Families" (look at the "Publications" section at www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk)

The following description has been taken from Action for Prisoners website: Danny's Mum is the first in a new series of unique story books dealing with issues affecting children with a parent in prison. It tells the story of Danny, whose mother has been sent to prison.

Finding the Right Spot:**When Kids Can't Live With Their Parents****Ages 4 – 8**

By Janice Levy and Whitney Martin

The following description has been taken from the website www.amazon.co.uk:

Finding the Right Spot is a story for all kids who can't live with their parents, regardless of the circumstances. It's a story about resilience and loyalty, hope and disappointment, love, sadness, and anger, too. It's about whether life is fair, and wondering what will happen tomorrow, and talking about all of it. And finally, it's about what makes the spot you're in feel right. A "Note to Caregivers" by Jennifer Wilgocki, MS, and Marcia Kahn Wright, PhD, discusses the emotional experience of children who are in foster care, kinship care, or otherwise not living with their parents, and the vital support that the adults in their lives can offer.

A Visit to the Big House (Hardcover)**Ages 4 – 8**

By Oliver Butterworth

Synopsis from www.amazon.co.uk:

Mother, Rose, and Willy go to prison to visit Daddy for the first time.