

Adoption

A Forever Family. R. Banish, 1992, Harper.

An 8 year old girl's journey from foster care to adoption as told by the child: what was hard, how it got easier, questions she asks, and things she--like any 8 year old girl--is busy doing.

Horace. H. Keller, 1991, Scholastic.

Everyone else in Horace's family has stripes. He has spots. Can he be happy and belong? Yes.

Through Moon and Stars and Night Skies. A. Turner, 1990, Harper Collins.

Child tells story of how he came from another country to his new adoptive home, how strange and frightening things seemed at first, and how he came to know his new home and parents.

Families & Siblings

The Pain and The Great One. J. Blume, 1994, Bradbury Press.

Which sibling is the favorite? Who gets all the privileges? It depends on your point of view. We hear surprisingly similar stories from both brother and sister.

Wanted: Perfect Parents. J. Himmelman, 1993, Bridgewater Books.

The things Gregory's parents would let him do if only they were perfect parents! Fortunately, they already do the very most important thing.

Stevie. J. Steptoe, 1969, Harper Collins.

What would it be like to suddenly get a little brother who isn't a baby? Robert gets a taste of it when Stevie comes to live at his house for a week. For all the irritations and annoyances, the boys share some fun and special times too. A classic. Excellent for children awaiting or experiencing the arrival of a non-infant adoptive sibling.

Mary Anne Always Can. A. Tyrell & C. Castle, 1988, Barrons.

What does a girl do when her big sister can do everything and she feels like she can do nothing? Find her strengths, of course.

Fears & Other Feelings

Where's My Teddy? J. Alborough, 1992, Candlewick

We're all scared of something. Even giant bears need their security objects, as we find when Eddie and the big bear are each reunited with their teddy--each just the right size for its owner and the wrong size for the other.

The Winter Bear. R. Craft & E. Blegvad, 1974, MacMillan.

Children out on a winter walk find a neglected teddy bear. They see past his imperfections and bring him home. Tattered, torn, and in need of some mending, "But still, an excellent bear."

Baby Unicorn and Baby Dragon. J. Marzollo & C. Marzollo, 1989, Scholastic.

Child figures are victimized by an old wicked elf. Together, they are brave and cunning enough to outsmart him--even if they cry.

There's a Nightmare in My Closet. M. Mayer, 1968, Pied Piper.

A little boy meets his nightmare head on and discovers the nightmare is really afraid of him!

The Right House for Rabbit. S. Saunders, 1986, Merrigold Press.

Rabbit finds that the grass is always greener on the other side, until you look closely. As it turns out, his home is just right after all.

Molly's Monsters. T. Slater, 1988, Platt & Plunk.

Monsters appear in Molly's room at night, but she gets rid of them.

Like all children, adopted children have many feelings and issues, not just those involving adoption directly. You can find many other books like these, dealing with themes like attachment, loss, families, and siblings, at your local library.

Most of the books here are for younger children, but we find that some may be enjoyed at almost any age.

Separation & Attachment

Walk Two Moons. S. Creech, 1994, Harper Trophy.

Sal is a 13 year old girl who has lost her mother. She and her grandparents embark on a journey that allows Sal comes to grip with the loss of her mother, and begin to move on. Older readers.

Perfect the Pig. S. Jeschke, 1980, Scholastic.

A woman takes in a winged pig, nurtures it, and it thrives. The pig becomes very sad and begins to fail when it is stolen by an unkind man. When the woman finds the pig, she and the man go to court where she is awarded custody. All ends well. The importance of attachment, and the reality of bad guys.

My New Boy. J. Philips, 1986, Random House.

Told from the puppy's point of view, the story of how the new puppy trains his boy. Status for the newcomer. Very cute and an easy reader.

I'll Love You Always. H. Wilhelm, 1985, Scholastic.

A little boy and puppy grow up together. When the dog gets old and eventually dies, the boy is sad. Although he'll get another pet someday and love that one too, he knows he'll always love Elfie. The need to grieve and to maintain connections.

Series

Stan & Jan Berenstain. The Berenstain Bears collection, Random House.

Topics include fears, too much birthday, too much TV, starting school, bad dreams, telling the truth, strangers, sibling rivalry, trouble with friends, and trouble with school.

Sesame Street Start to Read & Growing Up Books. NY: Random House/Golden/CTW.

Both series provide examples of topics and conflicts that face children, including being afraid of the dark, making mistakes, moving to a new neighborhood, dealing with friends, needing a security blanket, feeling left out, and trying to keep up. Great for younger children.

Adopted Children have the same range of feelings and emotions as any other children. Some of those feelings may be especially sensitive in light of adoption issues. For example, most children feel some amount of sibling rivalry, however, children whose siblings may or may not be the biological offspring of their parents may be especially sensitive to instances of apparent parental favoritism.

We have listed our favorite books here. There are many, many more. Talk to your local librarian, or check out one of the many other adoption resources listed on our website. For more information:

Organizations:

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse.
11426 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange
(MARE), 826 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02111

For further reading:

Arcus, D. (1998). Adoption. In J. Kagan & S. Gall. (Eds.), *The Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence*. Detroit: Gale Research.

Brodzinsky, D.M. & M.D. Schechter (Eds.). (1990). *The Psychology of Adoption*. NY: Oxford

Melina, L.R. (1989). *Making Sense of Adoption*. NY: Harper & Row

*This brochure was prepared by the
Children and Families Project
with assistance from members of the
Laboratory for Children and Families in the
Department of Psychology at the
University of Massachusetts Lowell
and support from the University's
Community Outreach Partnership Center and the
Council on Communication & Information Technology.*

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10/98

LOUIE'S FAVORITES: BOOKS FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

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