Books and More
A Kids' Bibliography on Divorce

Preschool and early readers


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, Beanoole 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 tentative heroines learn to cope with their problems as the story unfolds.

Primary school


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.


Raffel, E. & Raffel, J. Corky & Woody's Guide to Divorce. New York: Morrow, 1984. 160 pp. Interest level: 2–4 grades; reading level: 3.7 grade. Corky & Woody have been separated and are trying to adjust to their new lives. They 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.


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.


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.


Secondary school


High school


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, Beanoole 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 tentative heroines learn to cope with their problems as the story unfolds.


Cleary, Beverly. Dear Mr. Henshaw. New York: Morrow, 1983, 134 pp. Interest level: 4–6 grades; reading level: 4.9 grade. This 1984 Newbery Award winner finds adolescent Leigh Botts coping with modern-day problems of divorce and beginning 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.


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.


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 a 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 she grows in his relationship with his father.

For your parents