

Family Sunday Book List

February 2021 Theme: Family

FOR CHILDREN

Mila has Two Beds

By Judith Koppens

A sweet children's book that explains co-parenting and shared custody in such a positive way! Mila has two homes: some days she lives with Mommy and some days she lives with Daddy. Today she is going to her mommy's house. Everything is a little different at Mommy's than at Daddy's. But Mommy and Daddy both think Mila is the sweetest girl in the whole world. A warm and simple story about a girl whose parents are divorced. For toddlers ages 30 months and up, with a focus on the child's daily life.

Cat Dog Dog: The Story of a Blended Family

By Nelly Buchet

Cat and Dog live with their human in a suburban house with a big backyard. Sure, they fight like... well, cats and dogs, but they're used to one another. Dog—a different dog—lives a happy only-child life in the city with his dad. He has the bed to himself, he never has to share his toys, and that's the way he likes it. So, what happens when the Dog's dad and Cat and Dog's mom move in together? Well, it's chaotic. But as the seasons pass, the three animals become a trio and learn to (mostly) love one another. Just as they're settling into a cozy life as a threesome, along comes... a baby!

A Family for Louie

By Alexandra Thompson

Meet Louie. He's a dog of very fine taste. He knows every chef in town, and each day he wanders the city, visiting his favorite restaurants. It's a good life, except... Louie is all on his own. What Louie wants more than anything is a family. But try as he might, Louie can't seem to find a family that's right for him. Where-oh-where will Louie find a just-right family of his very own?

FOR TWEENS

Every Missing Piece

By Melanie Conklin

Maddy Gaines sees danger everywhere she looks: at the bus stop, around the roller rink, in the woods, and (especially) by the ocean. When Maddy meets a mysterious boy setting booby traps in the North Carolina woods, she suspects he is Billy Holcomb—a boy who went missing in the fall. As Maddy tries to uncover the truth about Billy Holcomb, ghosts from her own past surface, her best friend starts to slip away, and Maddy's world tilts once again. Can she put the pieces of her life back together, even if some of them are lost forever?

When Stars are Scattered

By Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So, when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future... but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day. Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humour exist together in this graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings.

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FOR TWEENS (Continued)

Closer to Nowhere

By Ellen Hopkins

For the most part, Hannah's life is just how she wants it. But when her cousin Cal moves in with her family, everything changes. Nothing is how it used to be. She knows that Cal went through a lot after his mom died and she is trying to be patient, but most days Hannah just wishes Cal never moved in. For his part, Cal is trying his hardest to fit in, but not everyone is as appreciative of his unique sense of humor and storytelling gifts as he is. Humour and stories might be his defense mechanism, but if Cal doesn't let his walls down soon, he might push away the very people who are trying their best to love him. Told in verse from the alternating perspectives of Hannah and Cal, this is a story of two cousins who are more alike than they realize and the family they both want to save.

FOR TEENS

You Should See me in a Crown

By Leah Johnson

Liz Lighty has always done her best to avoid the spotlight in her small, wealthy, and prom-obsessed midwestern high school; after all, her family is Black and rather poor, especially since her mother died. Instead, she has concentrated on her grades and her musical ability in the hopes that it will win her a scholarship to elite Pennington College and their famous orchestra where she plans to study medicine—but when that scholarship falls through she is forced to turn to her school's scholarship for prom king and queen, which plunges her into the gauntlet of social media which she hates and leads her to discoveries about her own identity and the value of true friendships.

Bridge of Clay

By Markus Zusak

The breathtaking story of five brothers who bring each other up in a world run by their own rules. As the Dunbar boys love and fight and learn to reckon with the adult world, they discover the moving secret behind their father's disappearance. At the center of the Dunbar family is Clay, a boy who will build a bridge—for his family, for his past, for greatness, for his sins, for a miracle. The question is, how far is Clay willing to go? And how much can he overcome?