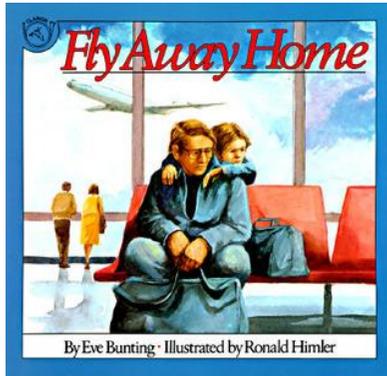


# Children's Books on the topic of Homelessness

Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness

**Title: Fly Away Home**



Author: Eve Bunting.

Illustrator: Ronald Himler

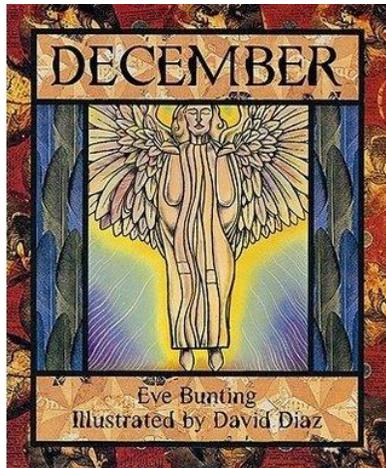
Summarize: *"A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal and trying not to be noticed, is given hope when he sees a trapped bird find its freedom."* (GoodReads)

Age: 5 to 8.

Number of pages: 32.

Keywords: [Homelessness and Poverty – Parents]

**Title: December**



Author: Eve Bunting.

Illustrator: David Diaz.

Summarize: *"Simon and his mom don't have much--the cardboard house they built for themselves, a tiny Christmas tree, and a picture of an angel pinned to one wall. On Christmas Eve they take in a frail stranger who needs a place to keep warm, and the next morning Simon wakes early to find that the woman has vanished. Instead, he sees December, the angel from the picture, with her wings fanned out over their cardboard house. Could she be real?"* (GoodReads)

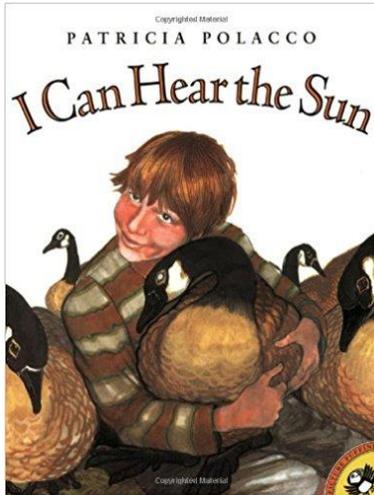
Age: 5 to 8.

Number of pages: 36.

Keywords: [Homelessness and Poverty – Parents]

Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness

**Title: I Can Hear the Sun**



Author: Patricia Polacco

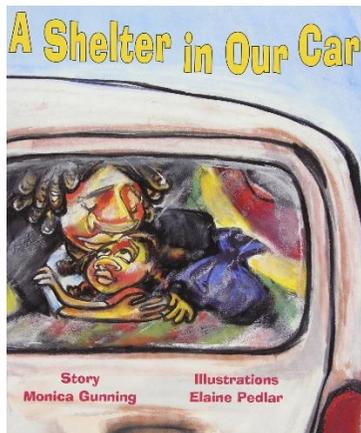
Summarize: "Fondo's life is sad and lonely until he meets Stephanie Michele. She takes care of the geese who live on the shore of Lake Merritt, and when Fondo shows up there one day, she lets him help. But now the geese are preparing to fly south for the winter, and Fondo says that they've invited him to join them. Is hope enough to accomplish a miracle? Patricia Polacco masterfully intertwines themes of friendship, homelessness, and faith to create a beautiful modern myth." (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 32.

Age: 5 to 8.

Keywords: [Homelessness - Friendship]

**Title: A Shelter in Our Car**



Author: Monica Gunning

Illustrator: Elaine Pedlar

Summarize: "Since she left Jamaica for America after her father died, Zettie lives in a car with her mother while they both go to school and plan for a real home". (GoodReads)

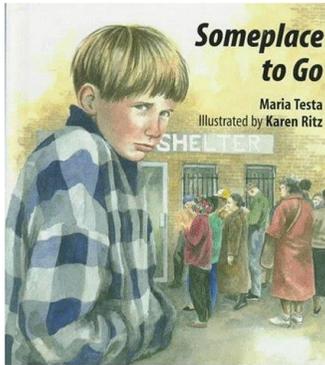
Number of pages: 32 pages

Age: 5 to 8.

Keywords: [Homelessness and Poverty – Immigration – Parents - Family - School]

Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness

**Title:** Someplace To Go



Author: Maria Testa

Illustrator: Karen Ritz

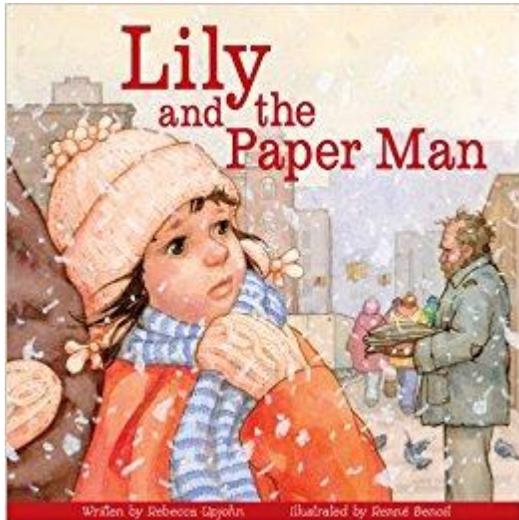
Summarize: "Davey describes how he spends his time after school trying to keep safe and warm until he can meet his mother and older brother when the shelter opens at eight o'clock." (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 32 pages

Age: 5-11

Keywords: [Loneliness – Homelessness and Poverty – Shelters – Family - School]

**Title:** Lily and the Paper Man



Author: Rebecca Upjohn

Illustrator: Renné Benoit

Summarize: "Walking with her mother on the way home from school one day, Lily runs straight into a gruff and untidy-looking man selling papers on the street. Frightened, Lily insists on taking the bus home every day for fear she will run into him again. But when the weather turns cold, Lily starts to see the Paper Man differently; she sees his bare toes through the holes in his boots and his thin shirt through the holes in his coat. As she lies in her warm bed at night, she wonders about the Paper Man and how he stays warm. Lily comes up with an idea and overcomes her fear." (GoodReads)

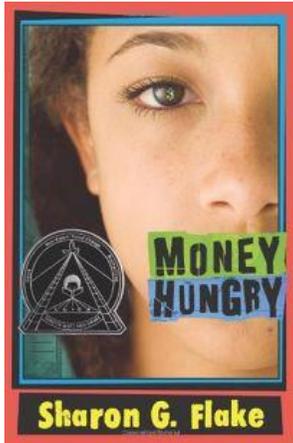
Number of pages: 24 pages

Age: 5 to 8.

Keywords: [Homelessness and Poverty – Family – Friendship - Winter]

**Title:** Money Hungry

Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness



Author: Sharon G. Flake

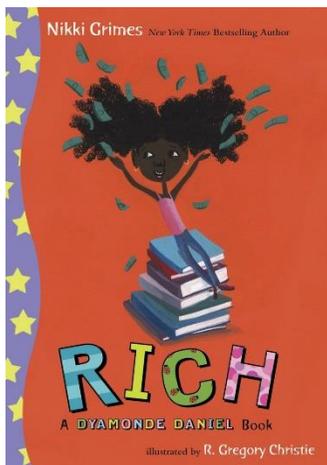
Summarize: "Thirteen-year-old Raspberry Hill is always scheming about ways to make money. She's starved for the green stuff and will do just about anything legal to get it—wash cars, sell rotten candy, skip lunch, and clean houses. She is obsessed with making money, having money, smelling money, and touching money. Raspberry is determined that she and her momma will never be homeless again. When they are approved for a Section 8 move to a nice house in Pecan Landings, Raspberry thinks things are looking up. But after their apartment in the projects is robbed, and protests by the rich folks in Pecan Landings force them out of their new house, Raspberry must do everything in her power to keep her world from crumbling." (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 188 pages

Age: 8-12.

Keywords: [Homelessness and Poverty – Family – Friendship - Money]

**Title: Rich**



Author: Nikki Grimes

Illustrator: R. Gregory Christie

Summarize: "Dyamonde Daniel is excited about the local library's poetry contest, and so is her friend Free. The prize is one hundred dollars. Just think what they could buy with that much money! But when they find out that Damaris, one of their classmates, has been living in a homeless shelter, their ideas about what it means to be rich or poor start to change. And when they get to know Damaris, they realize the one who could use the prize money the most also happens to be the best poet in class. In this fantastic follow-up to Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel, Nikki Grimes tackles big issues like homelessness in a sensitive, kid-friendly way. Dymonde's can-do attitude and lively spirit will endear her to readers." (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 112 pages

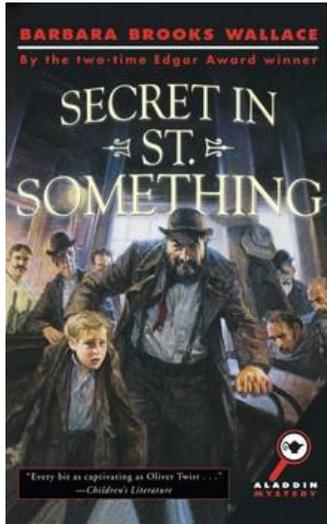
Age: 12-16

Keywords: [African-American Culture – Homelessness & Poverty – Friendship - Sexuality]

**Title: Secret in St. Something**

Author: Barbara Brooks Wallace

## Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness



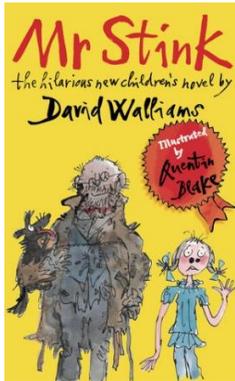
Summarize: "One flight up the narrow, steep stairs, Robin finds himself swallowed up by the darkness, terrified and hating the thought of the misery and fear his knock will bring to the wretched families who huddle behind every door in the building. Thus, begins the story set in a grim tenement district of New York City before the turn of the twentieth century. It is there that Robin, once protected by a loving mother and father, both now dead, must contend with a brutal stepfather, Hawker Doak. Yet Robin is faced with only two choices: remain in the ruthless charge of Hawker, collecting the hated rents, and, perhaps worse, being sent to work in a factory or escape into the treacherous slum streets, haunted by, among other horrors, the bullying boys who work and live in the streets, and whom Robin so fears. Either choice provides a sure recipe for a very short life. But in the end, it is fear for the life of his baby brother that makes Robin's agonizing decision for him. The answer to whether or not they survive will only be found when Robin discovers the secret guarded by a place called St. Something." (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 149 pages

Age: 10 - 13

Keywords: [Homelessness & Poverty – Mysteries & Detectives – Family]

### Title: Mr Stink



Author: David Walliams

Illustrator: Quentin Blake

Summarize: "Mr Stink stank. He also stunk. And if it is correct English to say he stinked, then he stinked as well. He was the stinkiest stinky stinker who ever lived... It wasn't Mr Stink's fault that he stank. He was a tramp, after all. He didn't have a home and so he never had the opportunity to have a proper wash like you and me. After a while the smell just got worse and worse... His beard was full of old bits of egg and sausage and cheese that had fallen out of his mouth years before. It had never been shampooed so it had its own special stink, even worse than his main one." (GoodReads)

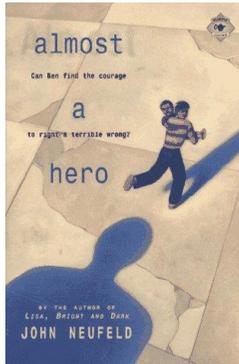
Number of pages: 272

Age: 8 – 12

Keywords: [Homelessness & Poverty – Friendship - Adventure]

### Title: Almost a Hero

Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness



Author: John Neufeld

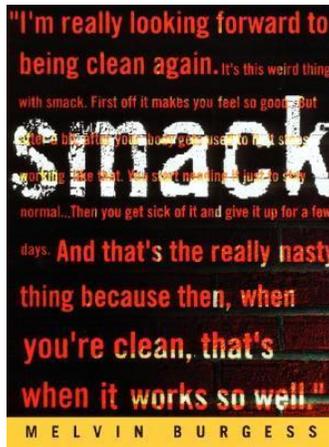
Summarize: "When Ben is assigned to volunteer at a daycare facility for homeless families during spring break, he discovers that working with the kids at Sidewalk's End is rewarding. Then Ben witnesses what he thinks is physical abuse of Batista, one of the center's children, and is frustrated when the system doesn't react quickly with help. After another of the center's children dies, Ben, haunted by his brother's mysterious death years before, enlists his friends in a desperate, and misguided attempt, to rescue Batista." (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 160.

Age: 12 – 15.

Keywords: [Shelters, homelessness, system failure, death]

Title: Smack



Author: Melvin Burgess

Summarize: "Two teens fall in love with each other and heroin. Tar has reasons for running away from home that run deep and sour, whereas Gemma, with her middle-class roots firmly on show, has a deep-rooted lust for adventure. Their first hit brings bliss, the next despair." (GoodReads)

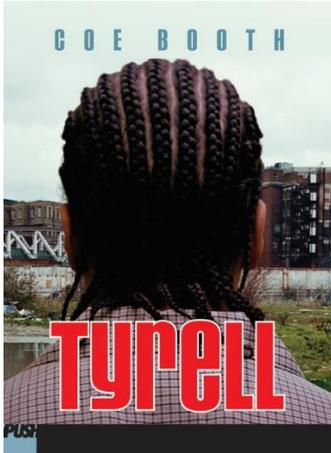
Number of pages: 293 pages

Age: 13 - 17

Keywords: [Drug addiction, Romance, Homelessness and Poverty]

Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness

**Title:** Tyrell



Author: Coe Booth

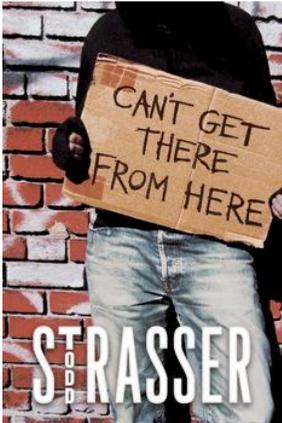
Summarize: "Tyrell is a young, African American teen who can't get a break. He's living (for now) with his spaced-out mother and little brother in a homeless shelter. His father's in jail. His girlfriend supports him, but he doesn't feel good enough for her - and seems to be always on the verge of doing the wrong thing around her. There's another girl at the homeless shelter who is also after him, although the desires there are complicated. Tyrell feels he needs to score some money to make things better. Will he end up following in his father's footsteps?" (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 310 pages

Age: 15 and +

Keywords: [African-American Culture – Homelessness & Poverty – Shelter – Romance - Family]

**Title:** Can't Get There from Here



Author: Todd Strasser

Summarize: "Her street name is Maybe. She lives with a tribe of homeless teens -- runaways and throwaways, kids who have no place to go other than the cold city streets, and no family except for one another. Abused, abandoned, and forgotten, they struggle against the cold, hunger, and constant danger. With the frigid winds of January comes a new girl: Tears, a twelve-year-old whose mother doesn't believe Tears's stepfather abuses her. As the other kids start to disappear -- victims of violence, addiction, and exposure -- Maybe tries to help Tears get off the streets...if it's not already too late." (GoodReads)

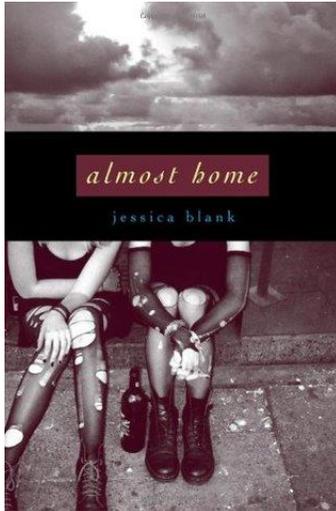
Number of pages: 208 pages

Age: 13 - 19

Keywords: [Abusive parents – Homelessness & Poverty – Friendship]

Children's Books on the Topic of Homelessness

**Title:** Almost Home



Author: Jessica Blank

Summarize: "Why would anyone choose to live on the streets? There is Eeyore, just twelve years old when she runs away from her privileged home, harboring a secret she's too ashamed to tell anyone. Rusty is a sensitive gay teen who winds up alone when his older boyfriend ditches him in Hollywood. Squid has gone through too many foster homes to count. There's Scabius, a delusional punk from Utah who takes the "me against the world" motto to dangerous extremes. And Critter is a heroin dealer with movie star looks and a vulnerable heart. Laura should be home studying, but she can't face another one of her mom's boyfriends. And then there's Tracy, the damaged thread that ties them all together, irrevocably changing each person's life she touches. This unlikely band of characters form their own dysfunctional family, complete with love and belonging, abuse and betrayal. Each will make their way home, wherever it may be." (GoodReads)

Number of pages: 256 pages

Age: 15 and +

Keywords: [Explore the world - Social issues - Homelessness & Poverty – LGBTQI2S+]