

Books on Divorce/Separation

Books for Younger Children:

Fiction:

- JJF Cole **The Un-Wedding by Babette Cole**
As their parents disagree more and more about everything, Demetrius and Paula Ooglebutt decide that everyone would be happier if they “un-marry”.
- JJF Christiansen **My Mother’s House, My Father’s House by C.B. Christiansen**
A child describes having two different houses in which to live, and what it is like to travel back and forth between them.
- JJF Shreve **Oliver at the Window by Elizabeth Shreve**
When Oliver’s parents move into separate houses, he spends a lot of time looking out of windows with his pet lion as he adjusts to a new preschool and to living in two places.
- JJF Coffelt **Fred Stays With Me! by Nancy Coffelt**
A child describes how she lives sometimes with her mother and sometimes with her father, but her dog is her constant companion.
- JJF Bunting **Some Frog! by Eve Bunting**
Billy is disappointed when his father doesn’t show up to help him catch a frog for the frog-jumping competition at school, but when the one he and his mother catch wins the championship, Billy begins to accept his father’s absence.
- Parents
JER-2 Perry **Just Like Always by Anne Perry**
A girl finds that most things in her life remain the same after her parents’ divorce.
- Parents
JJF Clarke **The Best of Both Nests by Jane Clarke**
Stanley the Stork is upset when his parents divorce and his father goes to live in a separate nest.
- Parents
JJF Masurel **Two Homes by Claire Masurel**
A young boy named Alex enjoys the home of both of his parents who live apart but love Alex very much.

Nonfiction (for Younger Children):

- J306.89 Cole **My Parents' Divorce by Julia Cole**
Discusses why divorce happens, how to cope with it, and how to deal with difficult feelings as well as friends whose parents are divorced.
- J306.89 Brown **Dinosaurs Divorce: A guide for changing families by Laurene Brown**
Text and illustrations of dinosaurs introduce aspects of divorce such as its causes and effects, living with a single parent, spending holidays in two separate households, and adjusting to a stepparent.
- J306.89 King **Daddy Day, Daughter Day by Larry King and Chaia King**
Talk-show host Larry King and daughter, Chaia, share poignant memories of Chaia's childhood. A true story of divorce and parents told from both a child's and a father's point of view.
- J306.89 Weitzman **Let's Talk about Your Parents' Divorce by Elizabeth Weitzman**
Offers basic advice on how to deal with parents' divorce, including coping with feelings and adjusting to stepfamilies.
- J306.89 Murphy **Divorce and Separation by Patricia Murphy**
Learn about the feelings many people experience when their parents are separating or divorcing. This sensitive book explains what happens when divorce papers are signed, explores the reasons why parents may decide to separate, and provides reassurance to any reader whose parents are splitting up.
- J306.89 Rogers **Divorce by Fred Rogers**
Mister Roger's talent for calmly explaining scary emotional upheaval to young children shines. Rogers offers caring support and validation for readers working through such trauma and he supplies concrete examples of way kids can deal with the stress.
- J306.89 Stinson **Mom and Dad Don't Live Here Anymore by Kathy Stinson**

Kathy Stinson deals in a positive way with the confusion, insecurity, and sorrow experienced by young children whose parents have separated. Each parent still provides the same love and caring – just not together anymore.
- J306.89 Ransom **I Don't Want to Talk About It by Jeanie Franz Ransom**

After reluctantly talking with her parents about their upcoming divorce, a young girl discovers that there will be some big changes but that their love for her will remain the same. Includes an afterward for parents on helping their children through such a change.

Books for Older Children

Fiction (Up to about 6th grade):

JF **Gateway by Lee Robinson**

As her parents proceed with a divorce and custody battle over her, thirteen year old Margaret views their activities with humor and good sense.

JF **Don't Make Me Smile by Barbara Park**

A young boy has trouble adjusting to his parents' divorce.

JF **Changing Tunes by Donna Jo Napoli**

Ten year old Eileen's life changes drastically when her father separates from her mother and moves out, taking with him the piano on which she used to practice every day.

JF **I, Amber Brown by Paula Danziger**

Because her parents share joint custody of her, nine year old Amber suffers from lack of self-esteem and feels that she is a piece of jointly owned property.

JF **Amber Brown Goes Forth by Paula Danziger**

Entering fourth grade, Amber faces some changes in her life as her best friend moves away and her parents' divorce.

JF **Amber Brown Sees Red by Paula Danziger**

The year that she's in fourth grade is a difficult one for Amber as she tries to deal with escalating telephone fights between her divorced parents and her father's impending return to take joint custody of her.

JF **Amber Brown Wants Extra Credit by Paula Danziger**

Unhappy over her parents' divorce and her mother's boyfriend, Max, nine year old Amber finds her schoolwork suffering.

JF **The Squeaky Wheel by Robert Kimmel Smith**

Moving to a new neighborhood following his parents' divorce, Mark has trouble making new friends and coping with his father's absence.

JF **Just Like Sisters by LouAnn Gaeddert**

Carrie hopes she and her cousin will become just like sisters during Kate's stay which is brought about by her parents' separation.

JF **Best of the Best by Tim Green**

Determined to play in the Little League World Series, 12 year old Josh struggles to concentrate on his game and be the team's leader while trying to cope with his parents impending divorce.

JF **The Comeback Challenge by Matt Christopher**

Mark, centerfield for his middle schools soccer team, must cope with his parents divorce and a teammate who holds a grudge.

JF **Lone Wolf by Kristine Franklin**

An eleven year old boy who lives with his reclusive father gradually warms up to a new friend and her large, loud, loving family. A tightly narrated story about coming to terms with past tragedies.

JF **Bad, Badder, Baddest by Cynthia Voigt**

When fifth graders Mikey and Margalo devise a plan to prevent Mikey's parents from getting a divorce, the two friends find their scheme foiled by a new girl at school.

JF **Getting Even by Mavis Jukes**

Finding herself the victim of an obnoxious classmate, ten year old Maggie receives conflicting advice from her crazy friend Iris and both of her parents, who are still at war two years after their divorce.

JF **The Silver Coach by C.S. Adler**

Neither twelve year old Chris nor her six year old sister look forward to spending their summer with their unknown grandmother in a remote woodland cabin, but the summer holds many surprises for them, not the least of which is a gradual acceptance of their parents' divorce.

JF **Arthur and the 1,001 Dads by Marc Brown**

Arthur and his friends try to find a substitute to attend the Father's Day picnic with Buster, whose father is not around much since his parents' divorce.

JF **Buttermilk Hill by Ruth White**

When Lindy's parents divorce and gradually begin to make new lives for themselves she finds all the changes difficult, but in time she starts to find her own way.

JF **Separate Sister by Nancy Springer**

Thirteen year old Dennie is so upset over her parents' divorce that she gets into increasingly serious trouble at school and does not recognize how much her older sister is hurting as well.

JF **The Fox Steals Home by Matt Christopher**

Already troubled by his parent's divorce, Bobby is further distressed when he learns that his father, who has coached him in running bases, intends to move away.

JF **Kaline Klattermaster's Treehouse by Haven Kimmel**

Third grader Kaline's father has gone somewhere else and his mother cannot seem to keep everything straight the way he did, but the two brothers and 100 dogs that live in his imaginary treehouse, and his strange neighbor, Mr. Orsiris Putnaminski, help him cope with his father's absence, his mother's forgetfulness and the bullies that torment him at school.

JF **Strider by Beverly Cleary**

In a series of diary entries, Leigh tells how he comes to terms with his parents' divorce, acquires joint custody of an abandoned dog and joins the track team at school.

JF **Lucy Rose: Big on Plans by Kathy Kelly**

Lucy Rose records in her diary her special summer plans – to make a keychain for her mother, to help decorate the living room, to prevent her parents' divorce, to vanquish some squirrels and to enjoy a 9th birthday adventure with her father.

JF **The Koufax Dilemma by Steven Schnur**

Angry when he cannot pitch in the season's opening game because of Passover, Danny finally makes some important decisions about loyalty to his divorced parents, his team, his heritage and himself.

JF **Bird Lake Moon by Kevin Henkes**

Twelve year old Mitch and his mother are spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents separate and ten year old Spencer and his family have returned to the lake where Spencer's older brother drowned long ago, and as the boys become friends and spend time together, each of them begins to heal.

JF **DeDe Takes Charge by Johanna Hurwitz**

A year after her father has left home for good, fifth grader, DeDe helps her mother cope with the realities of life after divorce.

JF **Ginger Brown: too many houses by Sharon Wyeth**

When her parents get a divorce, six year old Ginger lives for a while with each set of grandparents and begins to understand her mixed background and her new family situation.

JF **A Question of Trust by Marion Bauer**

After his mother leaves the family, Brad involves his younger brother in a plan to get her to come home and deals with his feelings of rejection by taking care of a newborn kitten.

JF **Lydia, Queen of Palestine by Uri Orlev**

Ten year old Lydia describes her childhood escapades in pre World War II Romania, her struggles to understand her parents' divorce amid the chaos of the war, and her life on a kibbutz in Palestine. Based on the life of poet Arianna Haran.

JF **Southpaw by Rich Wallace**

After moving to New Jersey following his parents' divorce, Jimmy tries out for the seventh grade baseball team while also trying to cope with his new life and his overly competitive father.

JF **I, Lorelei by Yeardeley Smith**

In letters to her recently deceased cat Mud, eleven year old Lorelei chronicles the ups and downs of her sixth grade year during which her parents separate, she gets a part in the school play, and she becomes friends with the cutest boy in her grade.

JF

A Friend for Today by Patricia McKissack

In 1954, when desegregation comes to Kirkland, Missouri, twelve year old Rosemary faces many changes and challenges at school and at home as her parents separate.

JF

Second Fiddle, or, How to Tell a Blackbird From a Sausage by Siobhan Parkinson

Outspoken Mags decides to help her new friend Gillian, a talented violin student, reconcile with her estranged father so that he will allow her to attend a prestigious music school in England.

JF

Bigger Than a Breadbox by Laurel Snyder

Devastated when her parents separate, twelve year old Rebecca must move with her mother from Baltimore to Grandmother's house in Atlanta, where Rebecca discovers an old breadbox with the power to grant any wish so long as the wished for thing fits in the breadbox.

JF

Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary

In his letters to his favorite author, ten year old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

JF

Julie Tells Her Story by Megan McDonald

In 1974, at her new San Francisco school, nine year old Julie does not want to tell her class about her parents' divorce, or to tell her sister about messing up her school assignment, but when she breaks her finger playing basketball and her whole family rallies around her, she realizes the importance of telling the truth.

JF

Happy New Year, Julie by Megan McDonald

The first Christmas since Julie's parents' divorce is difficult for the whole family, but Julie finds comfort sharing the Chinese New Year traditions of her best friend, Ivy Ling, and thinking about new new beginnings.

JF

Lost: A dog called bear by Wendy Orr

When Logan's dog runs away as he and his mother are moving to a new house after his parents separate, a girl named Hannah, who longs for a dog of her own, finds him.

JF

Stranded in Boringsville by Catherine Bateson

Following her parents' separation, twelve year old Rain moves with her mother at the country, where she befriends the unpopular boy who lives next door and also seeks a way to cope with her feelings toward her father and his new girl friend.

Nonfiction (for Older Children and Teens):

306.89
Cadier

My Parents Are getting Divorced: how to keep it together when your mom and dad are splitting up by Florence Cadier with Melissa Daly

Explores the feelings and questions shared by young adults whose parents are getting divorced, the changes that could occur and how to deal with them. Includes hotline numbers.

306.89
American

A Smart Girl's Guide to Her Parents' Divorce: how to land on your feet when your world turns upside down by Nancy Holyoke

Answers girls' letters about every aspect of divorce.

306.89
American

Help! A Girl's Guide to Divorce and Stepfamilies by Nancy Holyoke

Answers letters from girls dealing with various aspects of divorce, remarriage, and stepfamilies. Includes tips, quizzes and advice.

306.89
MacGregor

The Divorce Helpbook for Kids by Cynthia MacGregor

A guide to dealing with divorce of parents, discussing various reasons for divorce, the emotions experienced by the children and ways of coping with the challenge.

306.89
Stern

Divorce is Not the End of the World: Zoe and Evan's coping guide for kids by Zoe Stern and Evan Stern

Zoe and Evan Stern know firsthand how it feels when your parents divorce. When their parents split they knew their lives would change but they didn't know how. A few years later, when they were 15 and 13 years old, they

decided to share their experience in this positive and practical guide for kids. They deal with topics like anger, guilt, fear, adjusting to different rules in different houses, dealing with special occasions like birthdays, adapting to stepparents and blended families and much more.

306.89
Annie
Ford

**My Parents are Divorced Too: a Book for Kids by Kids by Melanie,
and Steven Ford**

A guide for children whose parents are divorced. Topics include what to do about parents' arguments, maybe parents will get back together, moving to a different house, being caught in the middle, holidays feeling weird, parents dating, new grandparents and more.

306.89
Buscemi

**Split in Two: keeping it together when your parents live apart by
Karen Buscemi**

Tackling an under-addressed but common difficulty for teens in split families. **Split in Two** is a valuable resource guide to help teens feel less crazed and confused, and more self-confident. Complete with personal advice from teens who have lived/are living in two households, tips on goal setting and planning skills, comic-book style illustrations give the book an edgy, modern, graphic novel-style feel.

Nonfiction (for Parents in Children's Services):

Parents
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Zimmelman

**Building a Parent Agreement That Works: Child custody agreements
step by step by Mimi Lyster Zimmelman**

Offers concrete help with one of the most difficult aspects of a separation: figuring out how to parent together in a way that's best for your children and works for both of you. Includes new information on moveaway laws.

Parents
306.89
Wallerstein

**What About the Kids? : Raising your children before, during and after
divorce by Judith S. Wallerstein**

Explains how parents can protect their children from the trauma of divorce and its aftermath, examining the effects of divorce on family members and discussing how to help children cope with the breakup, remarriage, and stepparents.

Parents
306.89
Neuman

**Helping Your Kids Cope With Divorce the Sandcastles Way by M. Gary
Neuman**

This empathetic guide shows how to build a co-parenting relationship, advises when you or your child should see a therapist, and gives age-appropriate scripts for sensitive issues.