Books To Help Children Cope With Separation And Loss: An Annotated Bibliography

Masha Kabakow Rudman Joanne E Bernstein Kathleen Dunne Gagne

CHILDREN COPE WITH PROBLEMS The use of literature to help children cope with problems can be an important part of teaching. Through literature, children can understand that they are not alone in encountering problems. In using literature to help children cope with problems, teachers recognize that children today encounter many problems and they can then better understand and relate to children's feelings about these problems. Teachers can guide children in discussing their problems more freely.


Presented here are some 750 fiction and nonfiction books—from folklore to poetry—focusing on separation and loss themes for young people. Highly selective, the guide profiles only "classic" and recommended titles from School Library Journal, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Publishers Weekly, Kirkus, The Horn Book, The Bookfinder, and other publications.

Arranged by topic, each annotated entry provides a review of plot and theme, interest/reading level, suggestions for use, and full bibliographic information. Issues include Homelessness, Economic Loss/Parents Out of Work, and Race Relations. The best way to help children face significant changes or losses is to let them know what is happening as soon as the loss, separation, or change seems definite. When parents try to delay telling the news, they often underestimate how sensitive children are to parental preoccupation and tension. Telling a child about an impending loss not only prevents the distress and anxiety that may build as the child increasingly wonders what is wrong but also allows the child to begin to prepare for what lies ahead rather than being caught off guard. The child has a chance.


Using children's literature as a tool for problem solving is a meaningful way for teachers to understand and help children with problems. Through the exploration of stories, discussion, and reflections on their own experiences, children can begin to perceive the complexities of the world in which they live.
The best way to help children face significant changes or losses is to let them know what is happening as soon as the loss, separation, or change seems definite. When parents try to delay telling the news, they often underestimate how sensitive children are to parental preoccupation and tension. Telling a child about an impending loss not only prevents the distress and anxiety that may build as the child increasingly wonders what is wrong but also allows the child to begin to prepare for what lies ahead rather than being caught off guard. The child has a chance