

HOMELESSNESS

Books for Younger Readers:

Bunting, E. December. 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? j PAR PIC Bunting

Bunting, E. Fly Away Home. A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal trying not to be noticed, is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its freedom. j PAR PIC Bunting

Trottier, M. A Safe Place. To escape her father's abuse, Emily and her mother come to a shelter where they find a safe place to stay with other women and children in similar circumstances. j PAR PIC Trottier

Wolf, B. Homeless. A hopeful story of an eight-year-old boy and his family. After a night in a shelter, Mikey, his mother, stepfather, two sisters, and brother are referred to the Henry Street Settlement Urban Family Center on New York City's Lower East Side, a clean, safe facility with individual apartments for each family. Through Mikey's first-person narrative and Wolf's full-color photographs, readers see the family go about their daily lives over the course of about a year. j 362.5 W853

Books for Older Readers:

Ackerman, K. The Leaves In October. After her mother leaves them, nine-year-old Livvy struggles to understand and forgive as her father loses his job and takes her and her younger brother to live in a shelter for homeless people. j Ackerman

Fensham, E. Helicopter Man. Peter Sinclair cares for his father, who is mentally ill, and tries to make the most of their homeless life together. j Fensham

Wilson, J. Elsa, Star Of The Shelter! 10-year-old Elsa narrates this bittersweet account of life in an English homeless shelter. Elsa copes by pretending she is a child star and performing comedy routines for anyone who will listen. j Wilson