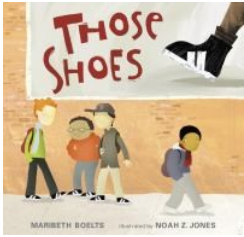


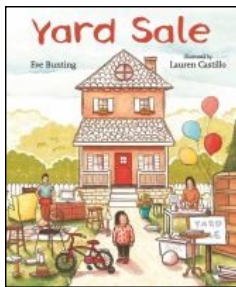
Economic Hardship and Homelessness



Boelts, M. Those Shoes. All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. But Jeremy's grandma tells him they don't have room for "want," just "need," and what Jeremy needs are new boots for winter. When Jeremy's shoes fall apart at school, and the guidance counselor gives him a hand-me-down pair, the boy is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy comes to realize that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants. j PAR PIC Boelts

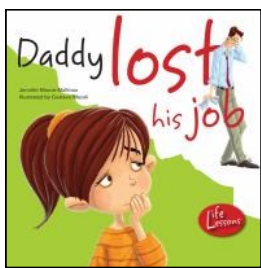


Bunting, E. Fly Away Home. "My dad and I live in an airport . . . the airport is better than the streets." A small child narrates the facts of his homeless existence--sleeping sitting up, washing in the restroom, and above all, avoiding being noticed. The brief text runs through all his emotions from a matter-of-fact acceptance to a fierce longing that makes him angry at those who have homes. This is a serious story but not an overpoweringly grim one. There is a reassuring togetherness between father and son and although there isn't an easy, happy ending, it does conclude on a poignant yet believable note of hope. j PAR PIC Bunting



Bunting, E. Yard Sale. Almost everything Callie's family owns is spread out in their front yard—their furniture, their potted flowers, even Callie's bike. They can't stay in this house, so they're moving to an apartment in the city. The new place is "small but nice," Mom says, and most of their things won't fit, so today they are having a yard sale. But it's kind of hard to watch people buy your stuff, even if you understand why it has to happen. This sensitive book shows that a home isn't about what you have, but whom you hold close.

jP Bunting



Moore-Mallinos, J. Daddy Lost His Job. Job loss is stressful for the adults in a family, but for the kids, it can be downright scary. In this book, an unnamed little girl talks about the day that Daddy got the bad phone call. For a while, it was fun having Dad around: "He was always waiting for us at the bus stop so that he could walk us home." But the illustrations show that kids can tell things are bad, even if they're not told. What happens next—and what Moore-Mallinos advocates in a two-page "Parents Guide" in the back matter—is the involvement of the children in the family's planning.

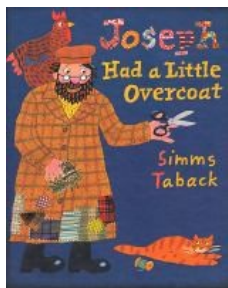
j PAR PIC Moore-Mallinos

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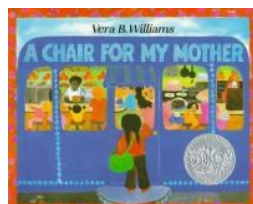
Roberts, J. On Our Street: Our First Talk about Poverty. A gentle introduction to the issue of poverty, *On Our Street* explores the realities of people living with inadequate resources. Using age-appropriate language, this book addresses mental illness, homelessness and refugee status as they are connected to this issue. An invaluable section on how kids can help empowers readers to take what they have learned and use it to make a difference.

j 363.348 Roberts



Taback, S. Joseph Had a Little Overcoat. When Joseph's favorite overcoat gets old and worn, he makes a jacket out of it. When the jacket is more patches than jacket, Joseph turns it into a vest. When the vest's number is up, Joseph makes a scarf. This thrifty industry continues until there's nothing left of the original garment. But clever Joseph manages to make something out of nothing!

jP Taback



Williams, V. A Chair for My Mother. The narrator, a young girl, describes how her family lost everything in a fire. They found a new home, and their neighbors donated furniture, but what they lacked was a comfortable chair for her mother to rest in after her days of work as a waitress. The family saves their change in a jar and when the coins finally reach the top, they set off to buy the perfect chair. The touching story shares a valuable lesson not just about perseverance and love, but about recognizing that for many families, having a good chair is a luxury.

j PAR PIC Williams



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