

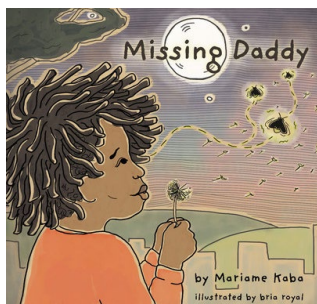


## Recommended Books For and About Children of Incarcerated Parents

These books about children of incarcerated parents act as a resource for parents, caregivers, providers, and policy makers about the diverse needs and experiences of children of incarcerated parents. Making books available in spaces children and families can access, such as classrooms, libraries, and offices can convey to children with incarcerated parents they are not alone and signal that you or your organization are supportive of families affected by incarceration. **We recommend reviewing a book to ensure it is appropriate for your needs.** Books are listed according to recommended audience age.

*Information herein was obtained from online reviews and book sellers.*

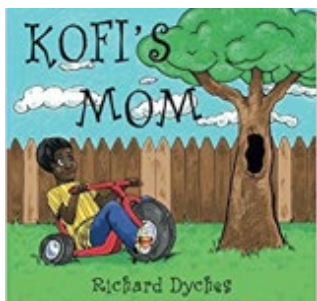
### AGES 3-8



#### **MISSING DADDY, Mariame Kaba & Bria Royal**

Ages : Young Children (4-8)

A little girl who misses her father because he's away in prison shares how his absence affects different parts of her life. A father and daughter's love cannot be broken even when prison bars separate them.



#### **KOFI'S MOM, Richard Dyches**

Ages : Young Children (3-5)

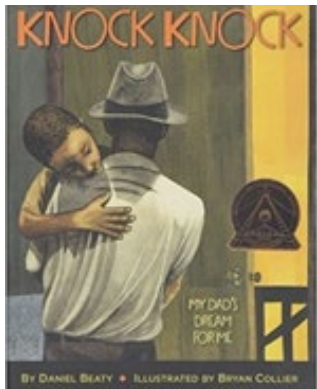
Kofi's Mom is a story about Kofi whose mother is sent to prison. It explores his feelings of loss and confusion. Through friends at school, Kofi begins to talk about his mom and look forward to her return.



## **WHAT IS JAIL, MOMMY? & MAMI, QUE ES UNA CARCEL?, Jackie Stanglin**

Ages : Young Children (3-8)

When the truth is withheld from children they tend to blame themselves for others mistakes and short-comings. It is incumbent on each of us to provide age-appropriate facts to young inquiring minds. What Is Jail, Mommy? not only explains why the parent is incarcerated but what his/her life is like.



## **KNOCK, KNOCK: MY DAD'S DREAM FOR ME, Daniel Beaty**

Ages: Young Children (5-8)

This powerful and inspiring book shows the love an absent parent can leave behind and the strength children find in themselves as they grow up and follow their dreams.



## **OUR MOMS, Q.Futrell**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

Meet Michael, Paul, Jennifer, and Anne! All children are different in many ways, but all have one thing in common, their moms are in prison. This book serves as a conversation starter for such a sensitive issue that impacts children in the US.

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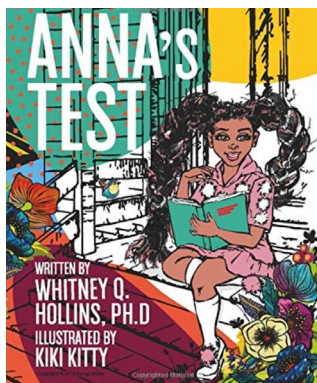
## **AGES 5-10**



## **SING, SING, MIDNIGHT!, Emily Ridge Gallagher & R. B. Pollock Jr.**

Ages: Young Children (5-10)

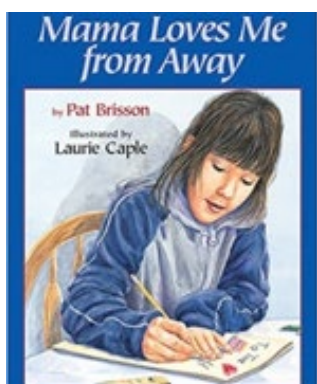
Maya has a question for her Dad who is incarcerated at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in New York, “Who takes care of you?” Sing, Sing, Midnight! celebrates finding your voice, singing out loud, taking care of one another, and family.



### **ANNA'S TEST, Whitney Q. Hollins & Kiki Kitty**

Ages: Young Children (5-10)

Anna is an awesome student who looks forward to her spelling test each week so she can show her parents. Her dad is especially proud of her. When she goes to visit her dad in prison, Anna can't wait to share the good news with him. Anna's Test focuses on positive family dynamics despite obstacles.



### **MAMA LOVES ME FROM AWAY, Pat Brisson & Laurie Caple**

Ages: Young Children (5-8)

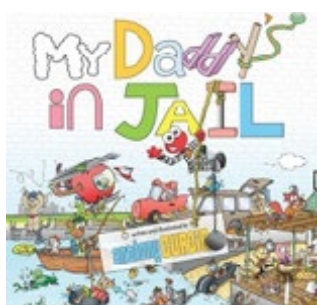
The relationship between a mother and daughter is pushed to its limits when Mama is incarcerated.



### **KENNEDY'S BIG VISIT, Daphne Brooks**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

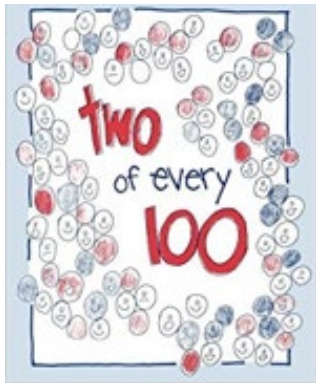
Kennedy's Big Visit is a poignant children's story about a father and daughter bond that is unbreakable, despite their unique challenges.



### **MY DADDY'S IN JAIL, Anthony Curcio**

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

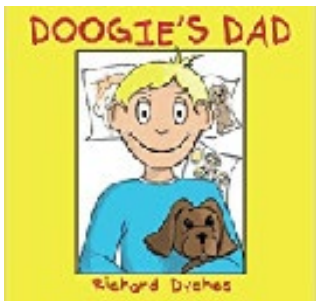
There are nearly three million adults in the U.S. alone who are in prison or jail. Many of whom leave behind unanswered questions with their children, like: What is jail? Why did this happen? Is it my fault? Is my daddy or mommy bad? Do they love me? My Daddy's in Jail is a story of two bears who have a father in prison. The book was written by a formerly incarcerated parent.



## **TWO OF EVERY 100, Richard Dyches**

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

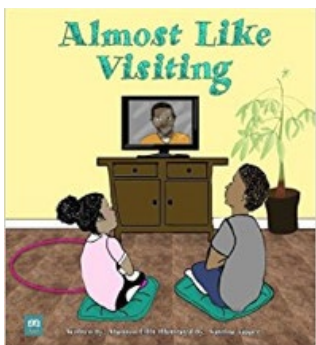
In a group of 100 kids, could you pick out which two have a parent in prison? Of course you can't. Kids who have a parent in prison look just like any other kid! These children have special needs which they often have trouble verbalizing. The exercises in the workbook are designed to be conversation starters to facilitate children talking about their concerns and feelings



## **DOOGIE'S DAD, Richard Dyches**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

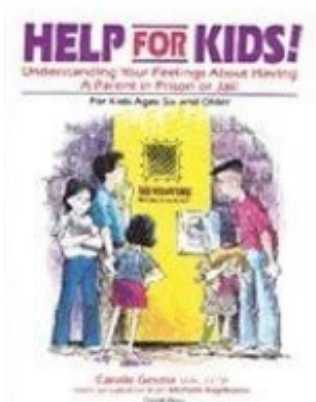
This story is about Doogie, a young boy, and his sister whose father is sent to prison. It explores their feelings of loss, fear, and frustration at not being told what's going on until their mom finally takes them to visit their dad in prison.



## **ALMOST LIKE VISITING, Shannon Ellis and Katrina Tapper**

Ages : Young Children (5-10)

Almost Like Visiting is about feelings and emotions children with an incarcerated parent may experience before, during, and after visiting their parent in prison. The book primarily focuses on video visiting and is a great resource for children with an incarcerated loved one and also serves to provide valuable information to their peers.



## **HELP FOR KIDS!: UNDERSTANDING YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT HAVING A PARENT IN PRISON OR JAIL, Carole Gesme, Michele Kodpfmann, and Lisa Schmoker**

Ages : 5-10

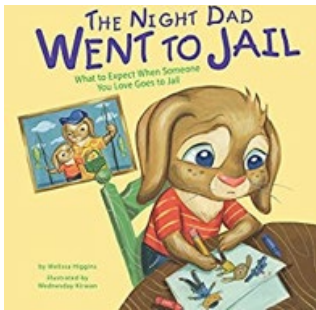
An activity workbook that explores the many mixed-up feelings that accompany the absence of a parent due to incarceration. It teaches peer pressure responses, provides tools for problem-solving, and helps students accept their feelings.



## **WAITING FOR DADDY, Jennie Lou Harriman and Kylie Ann Flye**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

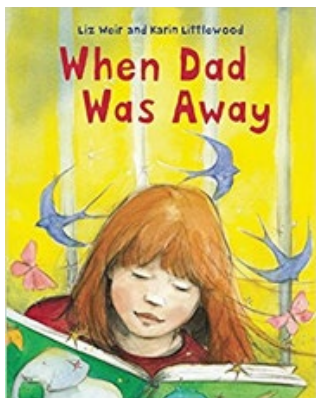
This is a story about a young girl, who wants more than anything to be with her father, but cannot because he is in prison. She discovers many ways to cope with her loss through creative expression, the natural world, and play.



## **THE NIGHT DAD WENT TO JAIL, Melissa Higgins**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

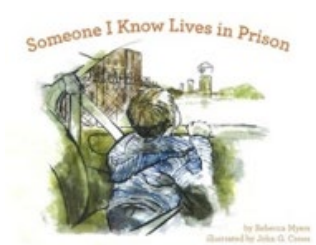
When someone you love goes to jail, you might feel lost, scared, and even mad. What do you do? No matter who your loved one is, this story can help you through the tough times.



## **WHEN DAD WAS AWAY, Karin Littlewood and Liz Weir**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

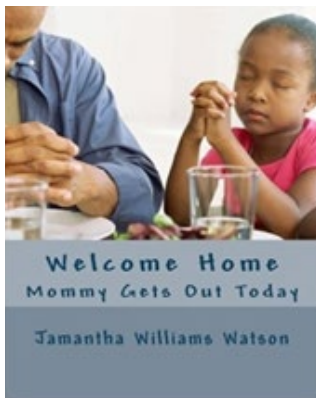
When Mum tells Milly that Dad has been sent to prison, Milly feels angry and confused. She can't believe her dad won't be at home to read her stories and make her laugh. But soon Mum takes Milly and her brother Sam to visit Dad in prison, and a week later a special package arrives at home – a CD of Milly's favorite animal stories, read especially for her by Dad.



## **SOMEONE I KNOW LIVES IN PRISON, Rebecca Myers**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

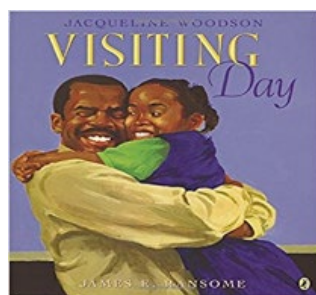
A young person visits an incarcerated family member and explains the many rules and procedures of a prison visit. Watercolor pictures accompany the text with images of visitors, incarcerated people, and prison employees.



## **WELCOME HOME: MOMMY GETS OUT TODAY, Jamantha Williams Watson**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

When Bernice and her favorite cousin, Malaika meet Bernice's mother for the first time, the girls share similar emotions while learning about society, familial, and gender issues. Written primarily for students in grades 1st through 3rd, this story aids youth who are experiencing the return of a parent who has been incarcerated.



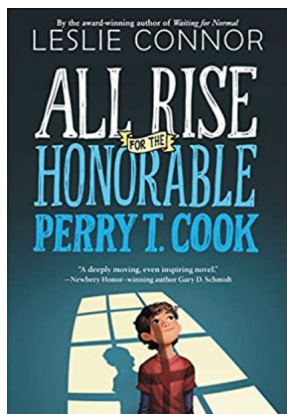
## **VISITING DAY, Jacqueline Woodson & James Ransome**

Ages : Young Children (5-8)

In this moving picture book, a young girl and her grandmother prepare for a very special day—the one day a month they get to visit the girl's father in prison.

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## **AGES 8-10+**



## **ALL RISE FOR THE HONORABLE PERRY T. COOK, Leslie Connor**

Ages: Young Children (8-12)

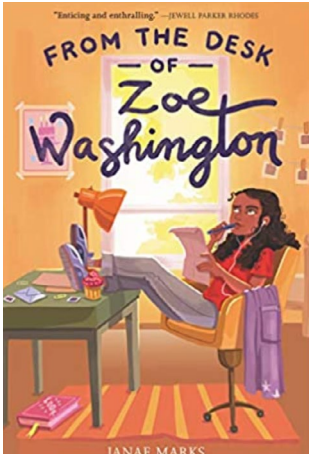
Eleven-year-old Perry has grown up living with his mother inside the Blue River Co-Ed Correctional Facility when he is suddenly forced to leave and enters foster care. He discovers that love makes people resilient no matter where they come from.



## **JAKEMAN, Deborah Ellis**

Ages: Young Children (8-12)

Jake and his sister Shoshona have been under foster care since their single mother was incarcerated three years earlier. Jake and his sister are on a routine bus ride to visit their mother when things take an unexpected turn and Jake has to use his alter-ego to be the hero everyone needs. Girls that have to care for themselves while their father is incarcerated and their mother is always working.



### **FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON, Jane Marks**

Ages: Young Children (8-12)

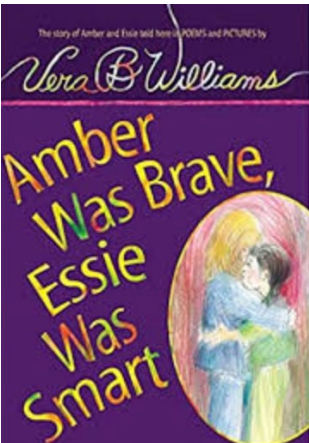
Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed.



### **THE SAME STUFF AS STARS, Katherine Paterson**

Ages: Young Children (10+)

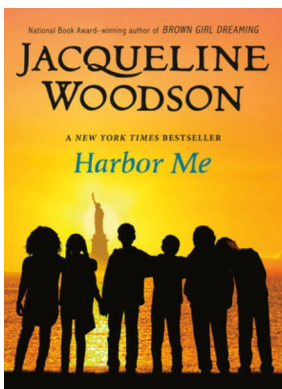
Abandoned by her unstable mother and incarcerated father, eleven-year-old Angel finds herself living with her oblivious great-grandmother, which leaves the care of her little brother entirely on Angel's shoulders. A moving story about family and friendship and perseverance in the face of life's greatest challenges.



### **AMBER WAS BRAVE, ESSIE WAS SMART, Vera B. Williams**

Ages: Young Children (8-12)

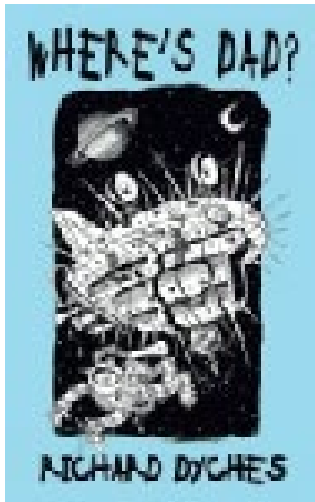
A collection of poems and images that depict the lives of two young girls that have to care for themselves while their father is incarcerated and their mother is always working.



### **HARBOR ME, Jacqueline Woodson**

Ages: Young Children (10+)

A collection of poems and images that depict the lives of two young girls that have to care for themselves while their father is incarcerated and their mother is always working.



## **WHERE'S DAD?, Richard Dyches and Korky Paul**

Ages : Young Children (8-10)

The story of an eight-year old dreamer of a boy, who imagines himself in a series of fantasy adventures as he tries to find out why the police have taken his dad away.



## **EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES: LIVING WITH MY DADDY IN JAIL, Madison Strempek**

Ages : Young Children (10+)

Take a heartwarming journey with 10-year-old author, Madison Strempek, as she candidly depicts her life experience of living with her father in jail. Through her eyes, you will live the heartbreak of her life changing news, discover how she survives with her embarrassing secret, and ultimately finds resolution and strength in understanding everyone makes mistakes.

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## **AGES 11+**

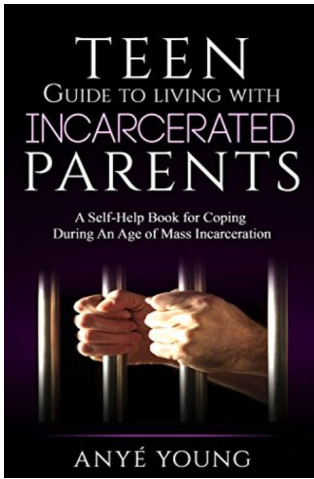


## **ALL I EVER WANTED...STORIES OF CHILDREN OF THE INCARCERATED, Herstory Writers Workshop**

Ages: Older Children (13+)

In an era of broken families, silence, stigma, and shame around incarceration affecting one generation after another, the voices of these young people give a resounding YES to the need for connection, breaking out of the stigma and silence, while proudly and hopefully speaking each young person's truth.

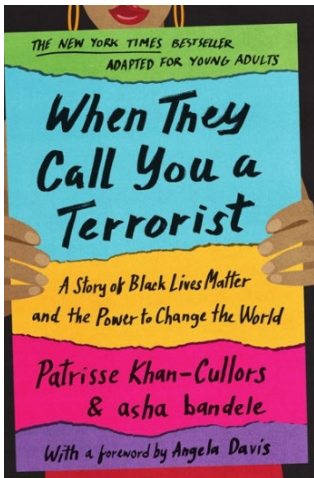




## **TEEN GUIDE TO LIVING WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS: A SELF-HELP BOOK FOR COPING DURING AN AGE OF MASS INCARCERATION, Anyé Young**

Ages: Older Children (13+)

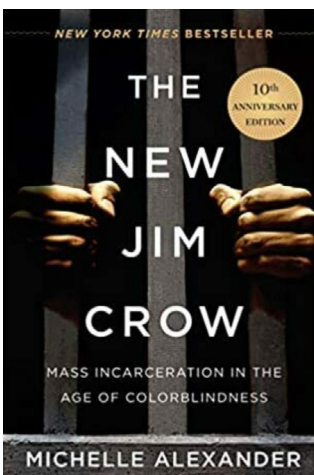
Anyé Young offers a glimpse into her life as a teenager coping with life while her father is serving a 12-year prison sentence. She shares personal stories along with tips she's learned while coping with the challenges of life away from her father and in a single-parent home



## **WHEN THEY CALL YOU A TERRORIST (YOUNG ADULT EDITION): A STORY OF BLACK LIVES MATTER AND THE POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD, Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele**

Ages: Older Children (12+)

Beginning with her childhood and ending with the creation of the Black Lives Matter movement, *When They Call You A Terrorist* is a powerful and poetic memoir that touches on how the incarceration of her father, brother and key adult figures in her life shaped her. With journal entries, song lyrics, poems, questions for further thought and discussion, and a recommended reading/viewing list, Khan-Cullors offers a guidebook and a way forward that will inspire readers and activists of all ages.



## **THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS YOUNG READERS EDITION, Michelle Alexander**

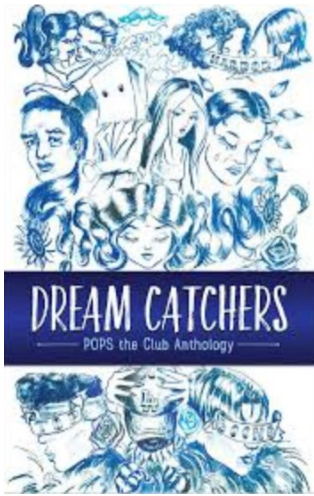
Ages: Older Children (12+)

*The New Jim Crow* raised the consciousness of an entire nation about the human rights catastrophe of mass incarceration and helped make criminal justice reform one of the most talked-about and urgent social issues of our time. This edition is a vital tool for helping younger readers understand the relationship between the criminal justice system and race.

## POPS THE CLUB ANTHOLOGIES

Ages: Older Children (13+)

Each year POPS publishes a book collection of the poetry, stories and artwork created by members of POPS the Club, youth who have experienced the incarceration or detention of a family member. These books are healing for families, relished by students from elementary school through college, described by wardens as rehabilitation tools, and praised by librarians and educators. As POPS expands, so will the number of publications



## RUBY ON THE OUTSIDE, Nora Raleigh Baskin

Ages: Older Children (11+)

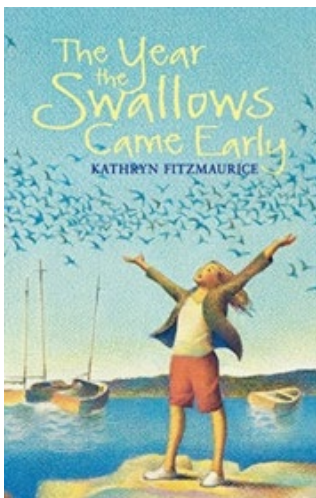
In this novel that sensitively addresses a subject too often overlooked, eleven-year-old Ruby Danes is about to start middle school and only her aunt knows her deepest, darkest, most secret secret: her mother is in prison.



## THE YEAR THE SWALLOWS CAME EARLY, Kathryn Fitzmaurice

Ages : Older Children (11+)

The year Eleanor 'Groovy' Robinson turns eleven—suddenly, her father is in jail, her best friend's long-absent mother reappears, and the swallows that make their annual migration to her hometown arrive surprisingly early. Groovy learns about the importance of forgiveness, understands the complex stories of the people around her, and realizes that even an earthquake can't get in the way of a family that needs to come together.





## CLARISSA'S DISAPPOINTMENT, Megan Sullivan

Ages : Young Children (5-12) & Parents

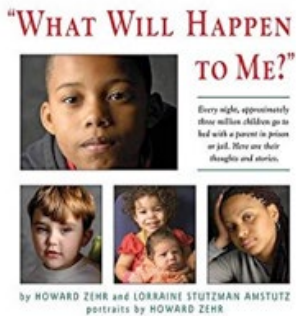
Two books in one, Clarissa's Disappointment combines a moving children's story of Clarissa waiting for her father to come home from prison with resources to assist the families, teachers and counselors of children of incarcerated parents.



## ROMAR JONES TAKES A HIKE, Jan Walker

Ages: Older Children (11+)

When his 9th grade language arts teacher tells him to pay attention to the poetry assignment or take a hike, Romar opts for the hike and embarks on a journey to find his mother. He figures that shouldn't be too hard. She's in prison in Washington.



## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?, Howard Zehr

Ages : Older Kids

This book brings together photographic portraits of 30 children whose parents are incarcerated, along with their thoughts and reflections, in their own words. As Taylor says, "I want other kids to know that, even though your parents are locked up, they're not bad people."