



Adoption Books for Children

PICTURE BOOKS

In My Heart by Molly Bang, 2005

Picture Book BANG

Wherever a child might be during the day, he or she remains encircled in love. Bright, energetic illustrations include pictures of a Caucasian family with an African American child. (Grades PreK-1)

A Mama for Owen by Marion Dane Bauer, 2007.

Picture Book BAUER

Based on a true story, after a baby hippo is separated from his mother, he finds comfort in the protection of a tortoise, and learns to trust that he won't experience a second separation from his "adopted" tortoise father. (Grades PreK-1)

Before You Were Mine by Maribeth Boelts, 2007.

Picture Book BOELTS

A little boy adopts a puppy and wonders what his beloved pet's life was like before coming to live with him. Parents who adopt school-age children could use this book to prompt discussion on their early lives. (Grades PreK-2)

My Family Is Forever by Nancy Carlson, 2004.

Picture Book CARLSON

Recognizes that families "are formed in different ways, so they don't always look alike," and reflects upon traits that children and their adoptive parents have in common, such as enjoying similar activities. (Grades PreK-2)

Three Names of Me by Mary Cummings, 2006

Picture Book CUMMINGS

A girl adopted from China explains that her three names -- one her birth mother whispered in her ear, one the babysitters at her orphanage called her, and one her American parents gave her -- are each a vital part of who she is. Includes scrapbooking ideas for other adoptees. (Grades 2-5)

Star of the Week by Darlene Friedman, 2009.

Picture Book FRIEDMAN

This story accurately reflects the complexities of the adoption experience, and how classroom assignments about family history can sometimes be challenging. (Grades 1-3)

Ten Days and Nine Nights by Yumi Heo, 2009

Picture Book HEO

A little girl eagerly waits, counting the nights and days until the arrival of her adopted sibling. (Grades PreK-2)

Nikolai the Only Bear by Barbara Joosse, 2005.

Picture Book JOOSSE

The only bear in a Russian orphanage is initially misunderstood, until a couple from far away come to visit him, understand his bearish ways and bring him home. (Grades PreK-3)

- Colors of Us** by Karen Katz, 2007. Picture Book KATZ
Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the color of their friends' skin, viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature. Katz wrote and illustrated the story in affirmation of her adopted Guatemalan daughter. (Grades PreK-2)
- I Love You Like Crazy Cakes** by Rose Lewis, 2000. Picture Book LEWIS
An adoptive mother describes her trip to China to adopt her beloved baby girl. (Grades PreK-2)
- Orange Peel's Pocket** by Rose Lewis, 2010 Picture Book LEWIS
An adopted child visits the tailor, a florist, and a noodle shop, each time leaving with a treasure that represents a piece of her heritage. This book models a creative way that parents can embrace culture and traditions of their adopted child. (Grades PreK-3)
- The Family Book** by Todd Parr, 2003 Picture Book PARR
A celebration of all the different kinds of families in the world, the different things they might like to eat and the things they have in common. (Grades PreK-2)
- We Belong Together** by Todd Parr, 2007. Picture Book PARR
An adoptive parent and child celebrate the reasons why they belong together, and the many things that they each bring to the relationship. (Grades PreK-2)
- When I Feel Sad** by Cornelia Maude Spelman, 2002 Picture Book SPELMAN
Even after finding forever families, adoptees can experience grief over losses from their past. This book is a tool for caregivers to facilitate a safe space for children of all backgrounds to acknowledge and share feelings of sadness. (Grades PreK-1)

NONFICTION

- Kids Like Me in China** by Ying Ying Fry with Amy Klatzin, 2001. J 362.7320951 F947k
An eight-year-old who was adopted from China as an infant returns to visit the orphanage where she used to live. This book combines real-life photos with Ying Ying's exploration of her roots. (Grades 4-6)
- At Home In This World: A China Adoption Story** by Jean MacLeod, 2003 *(On Order)*
A nine-year-old adoptee begins to put some of the pieces of her early life together by exploring what she knows about her history. This book enables pre-teen readers to put their early lives into perspective, while emphasizing the supportive love that encircles them within their adoptive families. (Grades 4-6)
- I'm Adopted** by Shelley Rotner, 2011 J 362.734 ROT
Photographs and simple text provide a safe space for adoptive parents and their children to discuss the story behind their adoption. (Grades K-3)
- Lots of Feelings** by Shelley Rotner, 2003. J 152.4 R848L
Multicultural photographs demonstrate the many feelings that children can experience – including more complex emotions. Since adoption can be a time of change as well as a time of joy, this book could be used by parents to let their adopted child know that it's okay to feel a myriad of feelings. (Grades PreK-1)