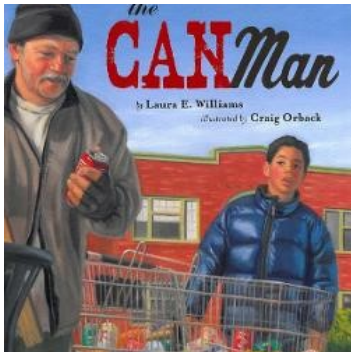


# Homelessness

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
**Picture Book Format**

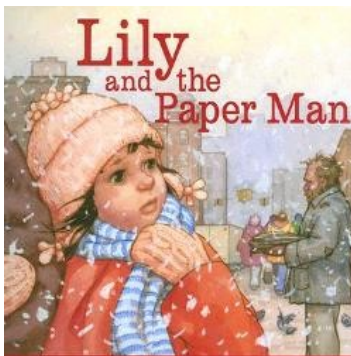
\*IL from publisher, then reviewers



## The Can Man

by Laura E. Williams, c2010 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.4)

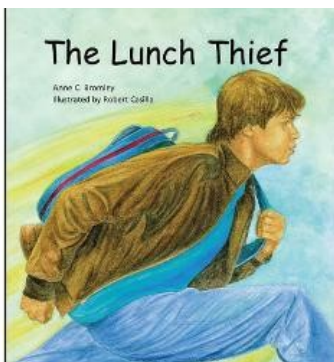
"Saving up for a skateboard, Tim returns cans for their deposits. It becomes increasingly apparent that he's in competition with a homeless man (who's remarkably sympathetic to Tim's efforts). When Tim realizes how much the "Can Man" needs the money, he relinquishes his earnings and learns a lesson about generosity."  
- Follett



## Lily and the Paper Man

by Rebecca Upjohn, c2007 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.9)

"Walking with her mother on the way home from school one day, Lily runs straight into a gruff and untidy-looking man selling papers on the street. Frightened, Lily insists on taking the bus home every day for fear she will run into him again. But when the weather turns cold, Lily starts to see the Paper Man differently; she sees his bare toes through the holes in his boots and his thin shirt through the holes in his coat. Lily comes up with an idea and overcomes her fear." - Pub.



## The Lunch Thief

by Anne C. Bromley, c2020 (IL: 3-5, RL: 3.5)

"When Rafael has his lunch stolen by the new kid, he gets mad. But rather than picking a fight with Kevin, he takes the time to figure him out, and realizes Kevin is homeless (and hungry) after the big California fires destroy his home." - Follett



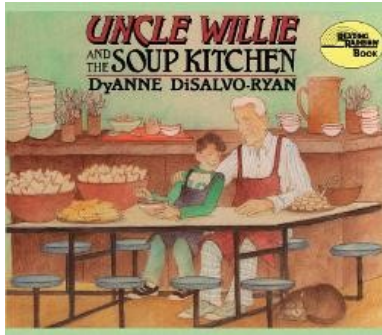
## You and Me and Home Sweet Home

by George Ella Lyon, c2009 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.7)

"Sharonda and her mama are living in a relative's back room when their church decides to build them a house. A group of people from the community arrive at the empty lot, some with tools and skills, others with a willingness to work and learn. Diane, the crew leader, shows Sharonda how to hammer together a window box, a job she can work on while the adults build the house. After the dedication, she and her mama move in to their new home." - Pub.

# Homelessness

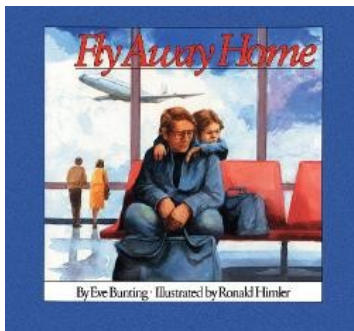
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen

by Dyanne DiSalvo-Ryan, c1991 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.1)

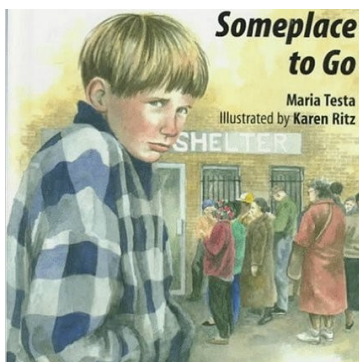
"A boy wonders about the people he sees on his city's streets until he goes to the soup kitchen where his uncle works. The varied needs of the individuals there become clear to the young narrator." - *Follett*



## Fly Away Home

by Eve Bunting, c1991 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.3)

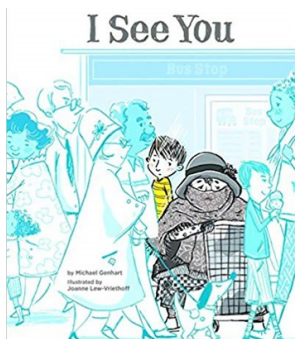
"Andrew and his father are homeless; they live in an airport. In order to survive they must avoid notice, so they keep to themselves, change terminals every night, sleep sitting up. The yearning sadness of the story, ameliorated only by the obvious affection between father and son, is reflected in the expressive watercolors." - *Pub.*



## Someplace to Go

by Maria Testa, c1996

"Davey describes how he spends his time after school trying to keep safe and warm until he can meet his mother and older brother when the shelter opens at eight o'clock." - *Follett*

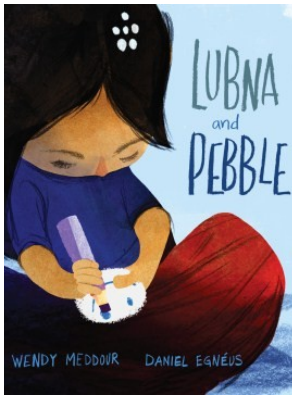


I See You by Michael Genhart, c2017 (IL: K-3)

"*I See You* is a wordless picture book that depicts a homeless woman who is not seen by everyone around her - except for a little boy. Over the course of a year, the boy is witness to all that she endures. Ultimately, in a gesture of compassion, the boy acknowledges her in an exchange in which he sees her and she experiences being seen. This book opens the door for kids and parents to begin a conversation about homelessness." - *Amazon.ca*

# Homelessness

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Picture Book Format*



## Lubna and Pebble

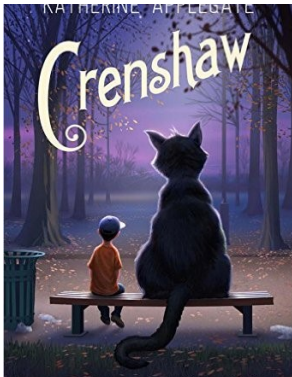
by Wendy Meddour, c2019 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.6)

"Lubna's best friend is a pebble. Pebble always listens to her stories. Pebble always smiles when she feels scared. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna realizes that he needs Pebble even more than she does." - Follett

# Homelessness

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Novels*

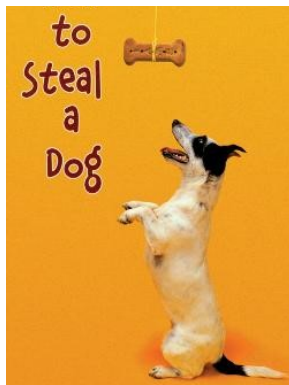
*\*IL from publisher, then reviewers*



## **Crenshaw**

by Katherine Applegate, c2015 (IL: 3-6, 4-6, RL: 3.7)

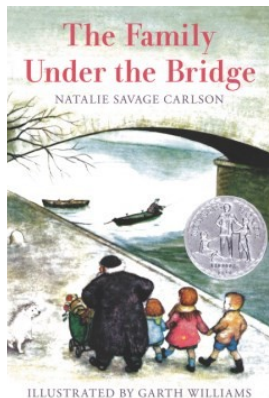
"Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?" - Pub.



## **How to Steal a Dog**

by Barbara O'Connor, c2007 (IL: 3-6, 3-7, RL: 4.0)

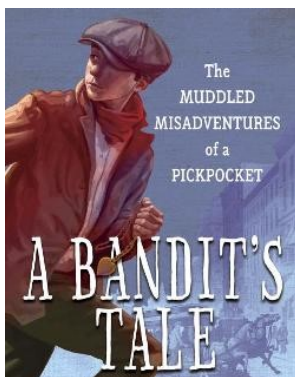
"Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina, desperate to improve their situation and unwilling to accept her overworked mother's calls for patience, persuades her younger brother to help her in an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward that the owners are bound to offer." - Pub.



## **The Family Under the Bridge**

by Natalie Savage Carlson, c1986 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.7)

"Armand, an old Parisian living on the streets of Paris, relished his solitary life. He begged and did odd jobs for money to keep himself warm and fed, and he liked his carefree life. Then one day just before Christmas, a struggling mother and her three children walked into his life. It did not take Armand very long to realize that he had gotten himself a ready-made family; one that he loved with all his heart, and one for whom he would have to find a better home than the bridge." - Pub.



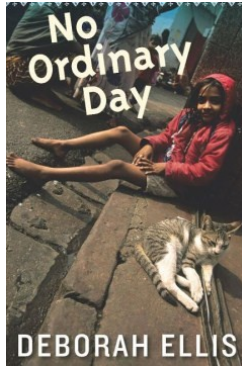
## **A Bandit's Tale: The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket**

by Deborah Hopkinson, c2016 (IL: 3-6, 4-7, RL: 5.9)

"In March of 1887, Rocco, an eleven-year-old from an Italian village, arrives in New York City where he is forced to live in squalor and beg for money as a street musician, but he finds the city's cruelty to children and animals intolerable and sets out to make things better, whatever the cost to himself." - Follett

# Homelessness

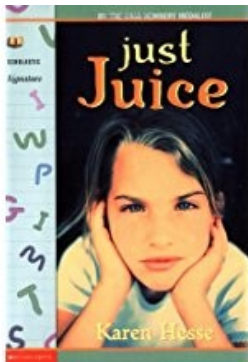
Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Novels*



## No Ordinary Day

by Deborah Ellis, c2011 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.4)

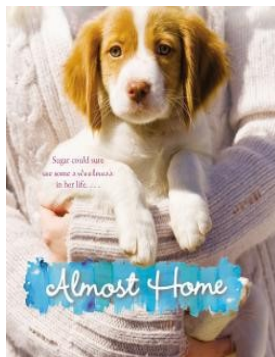
"Even though Valli spends her days picking coal and fighting with her cousins, life in the coal town of Jharia, India, is the only life she knows. The only sight that fills her with terror is the monsters who live on the other side of the train tracks—the lepers. When Valli discovers that her "aunt" is a stranger who was paid money to take Valli off her own family's hands, she leaves Jharia and begins a series of adventures that takes her to Kolkata, the city of the gods. A chance encounter with a doctor reveals that she has leprosy." - Pub.



## Just Juice

by Karen Hesse, c1998 (IL: 3-6, RL: 3.5)

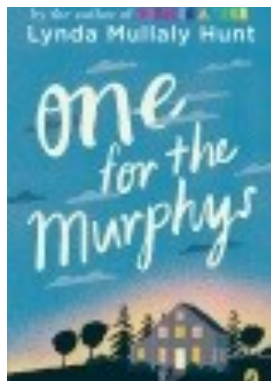
"Realizing that her father's lack of work has endangered her family, nine-year-old Juice decides that she must return to school and learn to read in order to help their chances of surviving and keeping their house." - Follett



## Almost Home

by Joan Bauer, c2013 (IL: 5-8, RL: 3.7)

"When twelve-year-old Sugar's grandfather dies and her gambling father takes off yet again, Sugar and her mother lose their home in Missouri. Nevertheless, Sugar's mother has taught her to be grateful no matter what, so Sugar does her best. With the help of a rescue dog, Shush; a foster family; a supportive teacher; a love of poetry; and her own grace and good humor, Sugar comes to understand that while she can't control the hand life deals her, she can control how she responds." - Pub.



## One of the Murphys

by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, c2013 (IL: 5-8, RL: 3.5)

Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong ..." - Pub.

# Homelessness

Compiled by Joan Pearce  
*Novels*



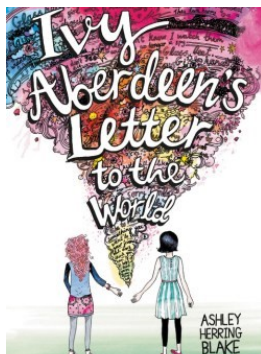
**Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster**  
by Jonathan Auxier, c2018 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.5)

"In nineteenth-century England, after her father's disappearance Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem." - Follett



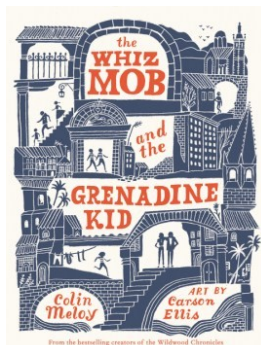
**No Fixed Address**  
by Susan Nielsen-Fernlund, c2020 (IL: 5-8)

"Twelve-year-old Felix's appearance on a television game show reveals that he and his mother have been homeless for a while, but also restores some of his faith in other people." - Follett



**Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World**  
by Ashley Herring Blake, c2018 (IL: 3-6, 4-7, RL: 4.9)

"Twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school." - Pub.



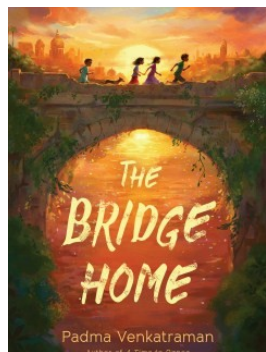
**The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid**  
by Colin Meloy, c2017 (IL: 5-8, RL: 6.2)

"It is an ordinary Tuesday morning in April when bored, lonely Charlie Fisher witnesses something incredible. Right before his eyes, in a busy square in Marseille, a group of pickpockets pulls off an amazing robbery. As the young bandits appear to melt into the crowd, Charlie realizes with a start that he himself was one of their marks." - Pub.

# Homelessness

Compiled by Joan Pearce

*Fiction—Novels*



## The Bridge Home

by Padma Venkatraman, c2019 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.4)

"Life is harsh in Chennai's teeming streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Very quickly, eleven-year-old Viji discovers how vulnerable they are in this uncaring, dangerous world. Fortunately, the girls find shelter—and friendship—on an abandoned bridge... But when illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile, hard-fought freedom."

- Pub.

# Homelessness

Compiled by Joan Pearce

*Non-fiction*



## HOMELESSNESS AND FAMILIES

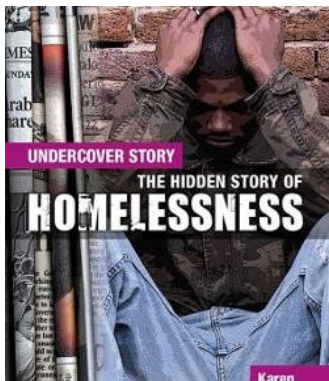
### Homelessness and Families

by H.W. Poole, c2017 (IL: 5-8, 6-9, RL: 6.6)

Series: *Families Today*

"Whether it's because of divorce, job loss, a natural disaster, or some other catastrophe, families sometimes find that they have nowhere to live. Meeting basic needs can be a struggle..." - Pub.

(American perspective.)



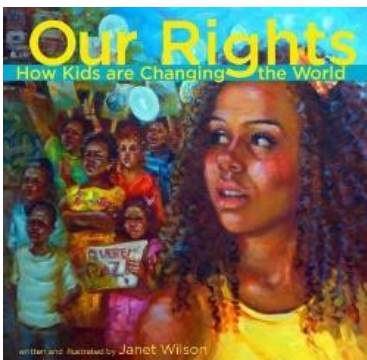
### The Hidden Story of Homelessness

by Karen Latchana Kenney, c2014 IL: 5-8, 6-8, RL: 7.4)

Series: *Undercover Story*

"The word homelessness comes with many expectations, and often those ideas are incorrect, based on outdated stereotypes. This hidden story digs deeper into the issue of homelessness, examining the real reasons that people, both individuals and families, are often forced to live on the streets." - Pub.

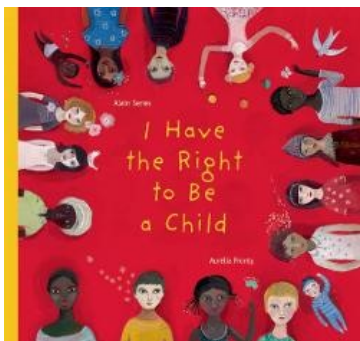
(American perspective.)



### Our Rights: How Kids are Changing the World

by Janet Wilson, c2013 (IL: 3-6, 4-7, 6-8, RL: 6.8)

"This around-the-world tour introduces readers to children who have taken on the role of social activist, fighting for human rights and social justice in countries as diverse as Yemen and Congo, Canada and the United States. Ten children receive main profiles, and over a dozen others are featured in smaller sidebars." - Follett



### I Have a Right to Be a Child

by Alain Serres, c2012 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.4)

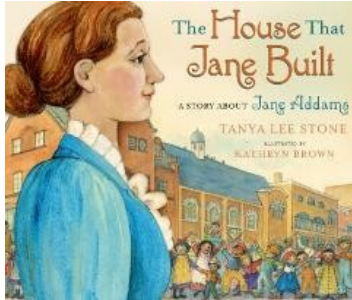
"With a very simple text accompanied by rich, vibrant illustrations, a young narrator describes what it means to be a child with rights -- from the right to food, water and shelter, to the right to go to school, to the right to be free from violence, to the right to breathe clean air, and much more. The book emphasizes that these rights belong to every child on the planet, whether they are black or white, small or big, rich or poor, born here or somewhere else." - Pub.



# Homelessness

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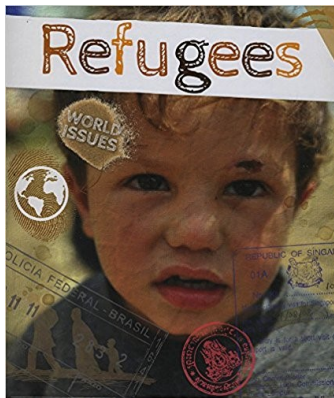
## Non-Fiction



### The House That Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams

by Tanya Lee Stone, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.3)

"This is the story of Jane Addams, the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, who transformed a poor neighborhood in Chicago by opening up her house as a community center." - Follett



### Refugees

by Harriet Brundle, c2017 (RL: 3-6, IL: 7.0)

Series: *World Issues*

"What is a refugee? Why do people become refugees, and how do they migrate? What is it like to migrate on foot, by boat, or by vehicle? What are refugee camps? How does it feel to be a refugee? Includes a case study of Syrian refugees." - Pub.