

# Homelessness

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

## Picture Books

**A Chance to Shine** by Steve Seskin & Allen Shamblin (2006) Picture Book Seskin

“Sometimes we just need a chance to show how great we can become. When Joe is given a chance to shine, one young boy’s eyes are opened in a way that changes him forever.” – A great book for teaching compassion and includes a music cd companion.

**A Shelter in Our Car** by Monica Gunning (2004) Picture Book Gunning

Zettie and her mom immigrated from Jamaica and must live in their old car until things turn around and Mom gets a job! Where can they park the car? When will Zettie get to sleep in a real bed and take a warm shower everyday?

**December** by Eve Bunting (1997) Picture Book Bunting

A classic tale offering hope in the spirit of Christmas miracles. Simon and his mother live in a box. On one very cold Christmas Eve, they open their “home” to someone else in need of warmth. A touching story about generosity, love and family, beautifully illustrated by David Diaz.

**Fly Away Home** by Eve Bunting (1991) Picture Book Bunting

A young boy and his dad learn to blend in at the airport since living there is not permitted! They are not the only ones living there so the boy has a friend. They dream of getting their own home and moving in together.

## **Fiction**

**Rich, A Dyamonde Daniel Book** by Nikki Grimes (2009) First Chapter Grimes

Third grader, Dyamonde Daniel discovers classmate, Demarias is living in a shelter. Dyamonde and her side-kick Free (a.k.a. Reed Freeman) learn about friendship and acceptance. Short, fast chapters with a lively story for newly independent readers.

**Almost Home** by Joan Bauer (2012)

Fiction Bauer

Twelve-year old Sugar Mae Cole winds up in Chicago with her mother...homeless. Sugar's dog, Shush helps to cushion this unfortunate blow along with Sugar's positive attitude. Aimed at the middle-school audience due to content: alcoholism and drug-use. An honest look at some of life's pitfalls.

**The Double Life of Zoe Flynn** by Janet Lee Carey

Fiction Carey

Sixth grader Zoe used to live in a beautiful big old house, but now lives in a green van. After moving to a new neighborhood, she works really hard at not letting new friends find out about her living arrangements.

**Crash** by Lesley Choyce (2013)

Teen Fiction Choyce

Sixteen year old Cameron's life is a mess. His parents breakup and he ends up on the streets with his dog. After several close calls with trouble, Cameron starts trying to solve his problems. Published by Orca and aimed for low skilled readers.

## **Nonfiction**

**What to Expect When Your Family Loses its Home** by Rachel Lynette (2010)

Covers topics such as moving, downsizing, moving in with relatives, and living in a shelter. Short, one-page chapters with pictures. There is a glossary of terms that a child might here when experiencing this situation such as benefits, caseworker, mortgage, permanent.

