

Books and Other Resources Exploring Youth and Poverty

Picture Books

Fly Away, Home by Eve Bunting

Maddi's Fridge by Lois Brandt

Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts

Dear Mr. Rosenwald by Carole Boston Weatherford

Gettin' Through Thursday by Melrose Cooper

Yard Sale by Eve Bunting

The Hard Times Jar by Ethel Footman Smothers

A Shelter in Our Car by Monica Gunning (ages 6-9)

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt De La Pena

A Different Pond by Bao Phi

Saturday at the Food Pantry by Diane O'Neill

Middle Grade

The Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Braden

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate (Ages 8-10)

Free Lunch by Rex Ogle

Isaiah Dunn is My Hero by Kelly J. Baptist

Where the Heart Is by Jo Knowles

[Meant to Be](#) by Jo Knowles

[Just Under the Clouds](#) by Melissa Sarno

[Paper Things](#) by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

[The Dollar Kids](#) by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

[Front Desk](#) by Kelly Yang

[Gettin' Through Thursday](#) by Melrose Cooper (ages 5-8)

[The Exact Location of Home](#) by Kate Messner

[Just Left of Lucky](#) – by Dianna Dorisi Winget

[Hope in the Holler](#) by Lisa Lewis Tyre

Young Adult

[Piecing me Together](#) by Renee Watson

[How to Build a Heart](#) by Maria Padian

[Grit](#) by Gillian French

[Find Layla](#) by Meg Elison

[Make Lemonade](#) by Virginia Euwer Wolff

[Money Hungry](#) by Sharon G. Flake

[The Tinfoil Sky](#) by Cyndi Sand-Eveland (grades 7-9)

[Fly Away, Home](#) by Eve Bunting

[Perfectly Good White Boy](#) by Carrie Mesrobian

[Tyrell](#) by Coe Booth

No Place by Todd Strasser

Can't Get There From Here by Todd Strasser

Sleeping in my Jeans by Connie King Leonard

American Street by Ibi Zoboi

Adult/crossover novels about teens dealing with class/poverty:

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

My Heart Is A Chainsaw by Stephen Graham Jones

Mysterious Skin by Scott Heim

Under the Feet of Jesus by Helena Varmints

Lists, primarily picture books, curated by The Pragmatic Mom:

<https://www.pragmaticmom.com/2018/03/poverty-book-list-kids/>

Book Riot's suggestions for YA/Teen readers:

<https://bookriot.com/ya-books-about-poverty/>

The Teen Librarian Toolbox from School Library Journal has excellent links and reading suggestions:

<https://teenlibrariantoolbox.com/2014/12/19/teens-and-poverty-an-updated-book-list/>