



SOCIAL NARRATIVES OF DIVORCE IN CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

Adapted from LIS 597 Project

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AGENDA

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Study Scope
- ❖ Bibliotherapy
- ❖ Why Divorce?
- ❖ Research Question
- ❖ Methodology
- ❖ Family Structure
- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Emotions
- ❖ Conclusions

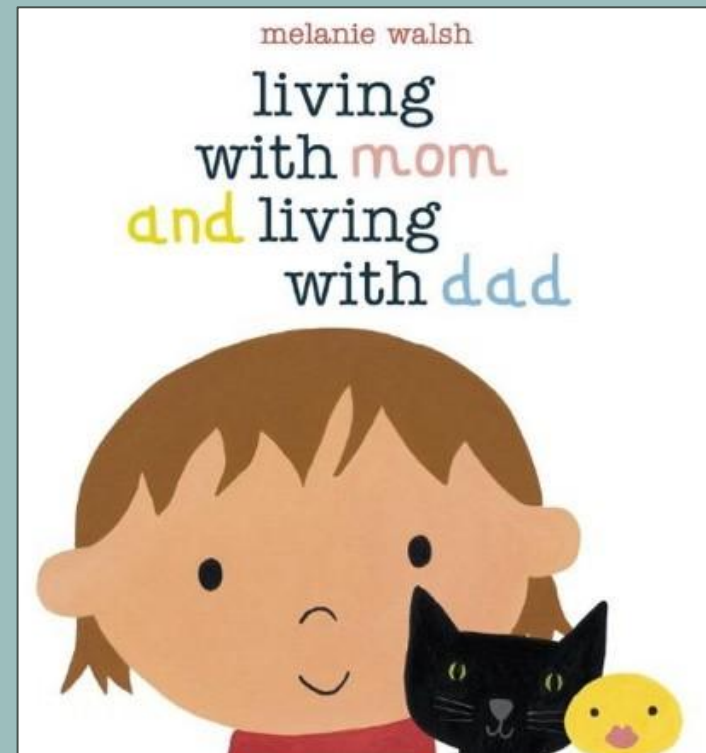
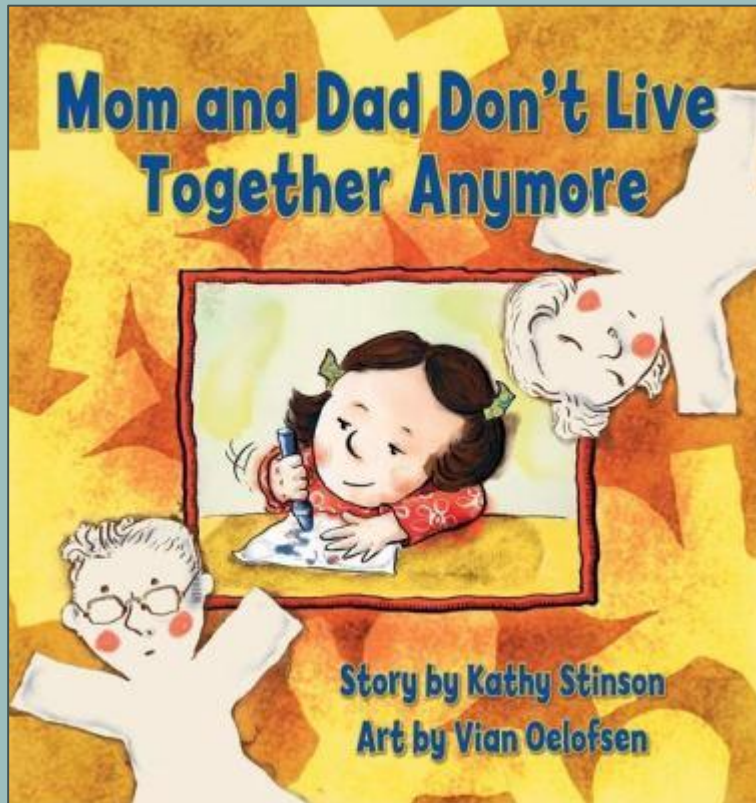


Image Source: <https://www.fatherly.com>

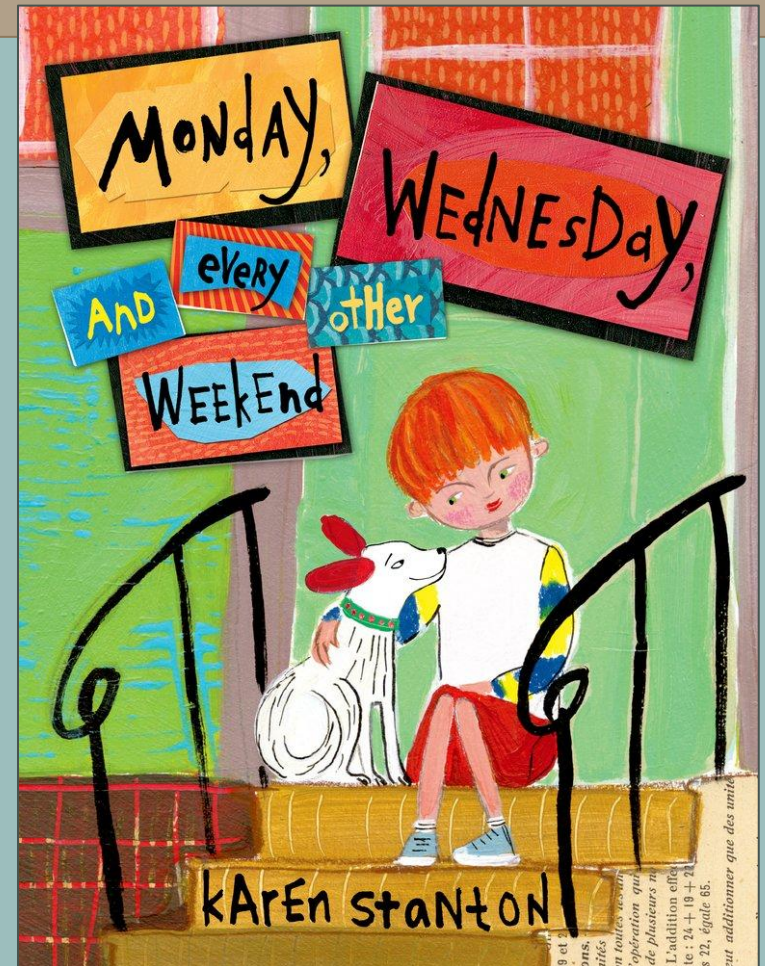
BACKGROUND



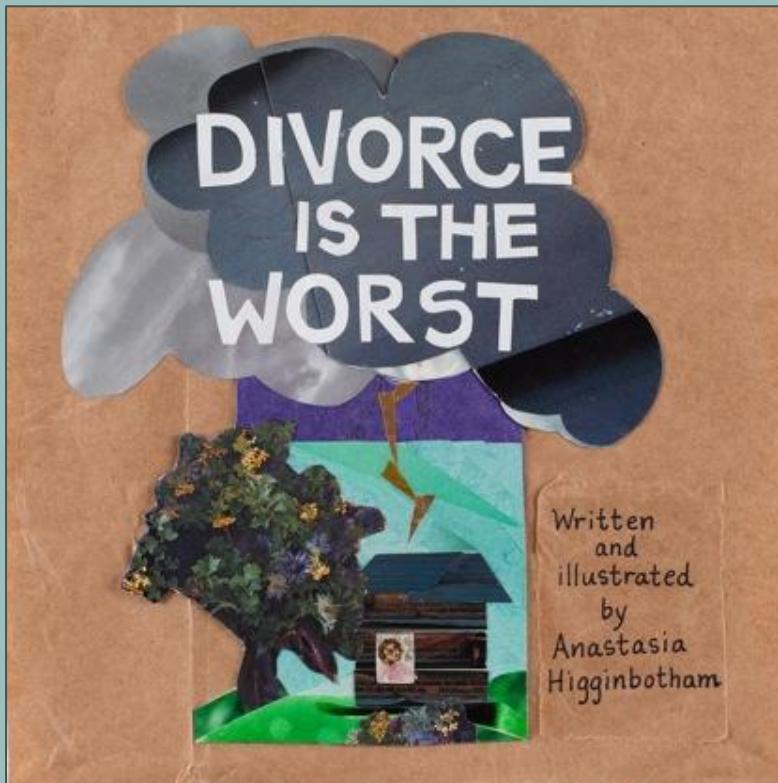
By “the nineteenth century, a general consensus had been reached, and the publication of books, texts, pictures, and other artifacts for children reflected a deep enlightened belief that human beings could be molded, improved, and civilized (Hoffman et al, 1999, p. 11).”

BIBLIOTHERAPY

“Bibliotherapy involves reading a carefully selected book independently or in a group, discussing the story, and applying lessons learned in activities that build on the story's message. A good story invites children to identify with characters, become emotionally invested, express emotions, and apply new insights to personal situations” (Moulton et al, 2011, p. 122).



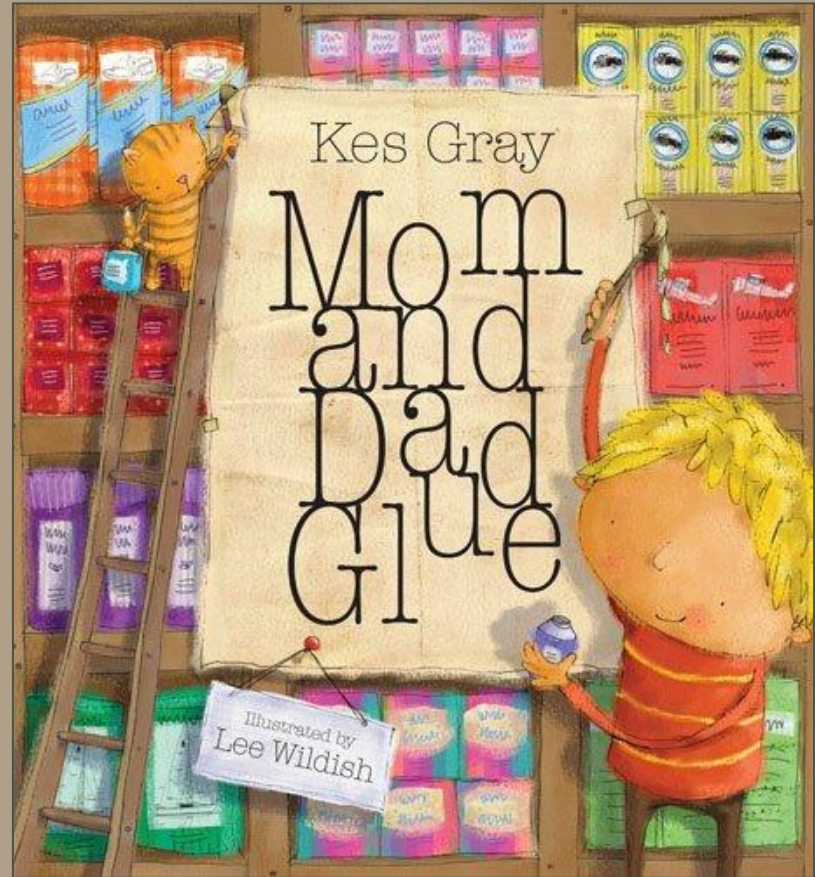
WHY DIVORCE?



Divorce has become increasingly common and socially accepted “with approximately 70,000 divorces each year in Canada, and more than **40%** of marriages in Canada ending in divorce” (Chang & Kier, 2016: S1).

STUDY SCOPE

- ❖ 15 Picture Books
- ❖ 2006-2016
- ❖ Limitations
- ❖ Book Quality
- ❖ Fiction/ Therapeutic



What are picture books published from 2006 to 2016, with themes of parental separation and divorce, revealing to readers about societal views on family structures, relationships and emotions?

Image Source: <https://www.amazon.com>

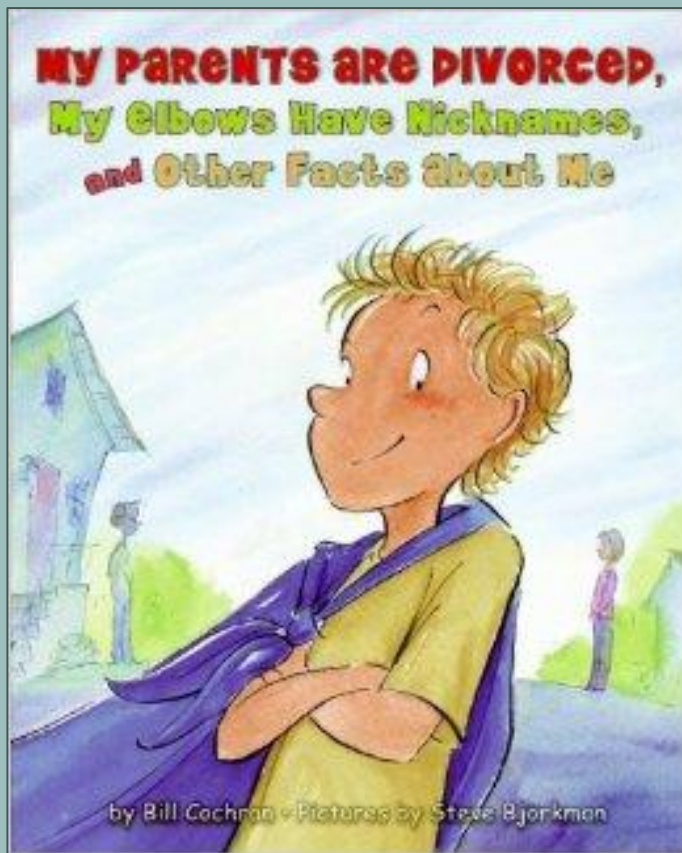


RESEARCH QUESTION

METHODOLOGY

- ❖ Current Social Narratives
- ❖ Situational: Family and Divorce
- ❖ Child as the Main Character
- ❖ Content Analysis
- ❖ Coding
- ❖ Organic Qualitative Analysis

FAMILY STRUCTRE



- ❖ Nuclear Family Normalized
- ❖ Siblings and Extended Family Members Excluded
- ❖ 2 Books- New Partners
- ❖ Post-Separation Stability

RELATIONSHIPS

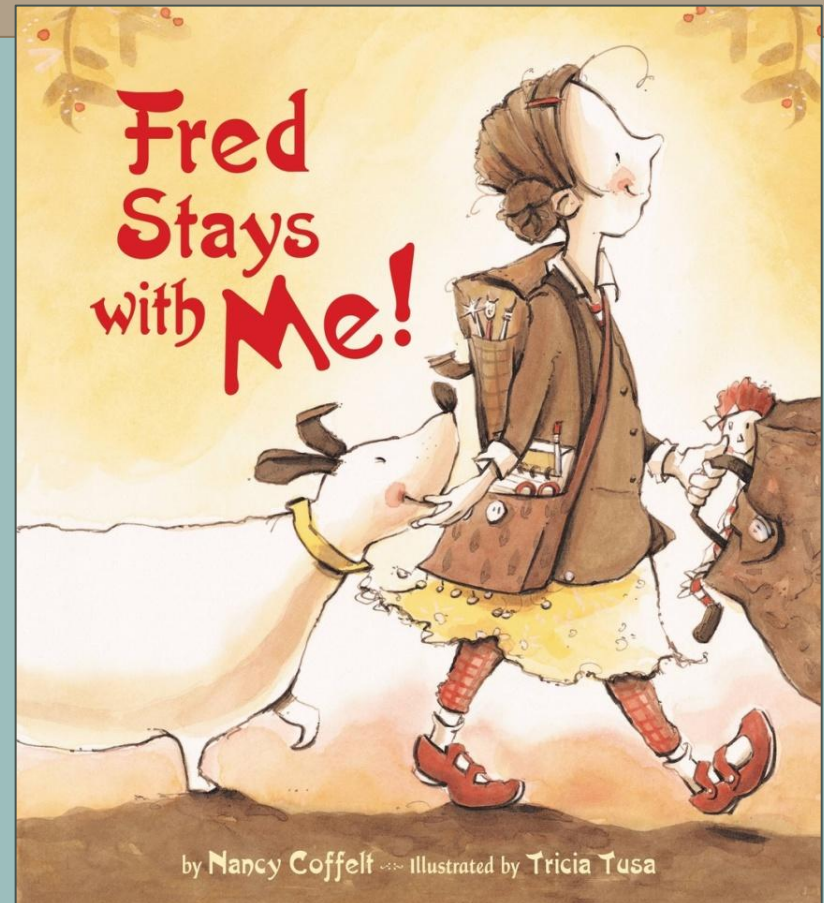
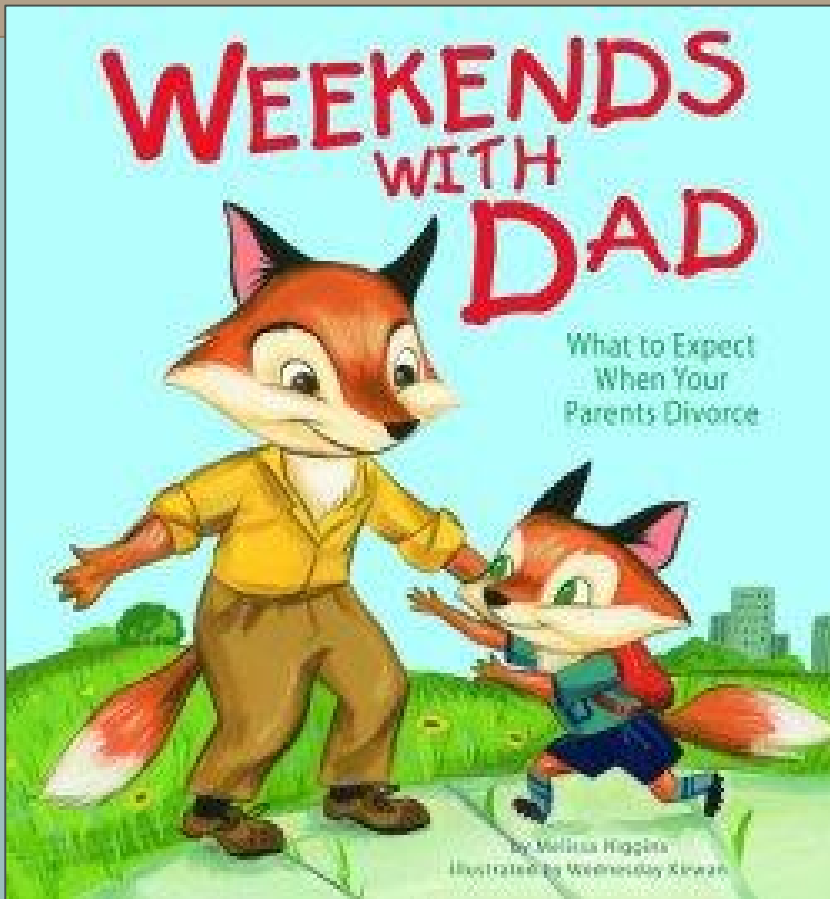


Image Sources: <http://www.amazon.com/> AND
<http://www.bachettebookgroup.com/>

- ❖ Sadness- 10 Books
- ❖ Yearning
- ❖ 12 Books- Love
- ❖ Emotional Processing

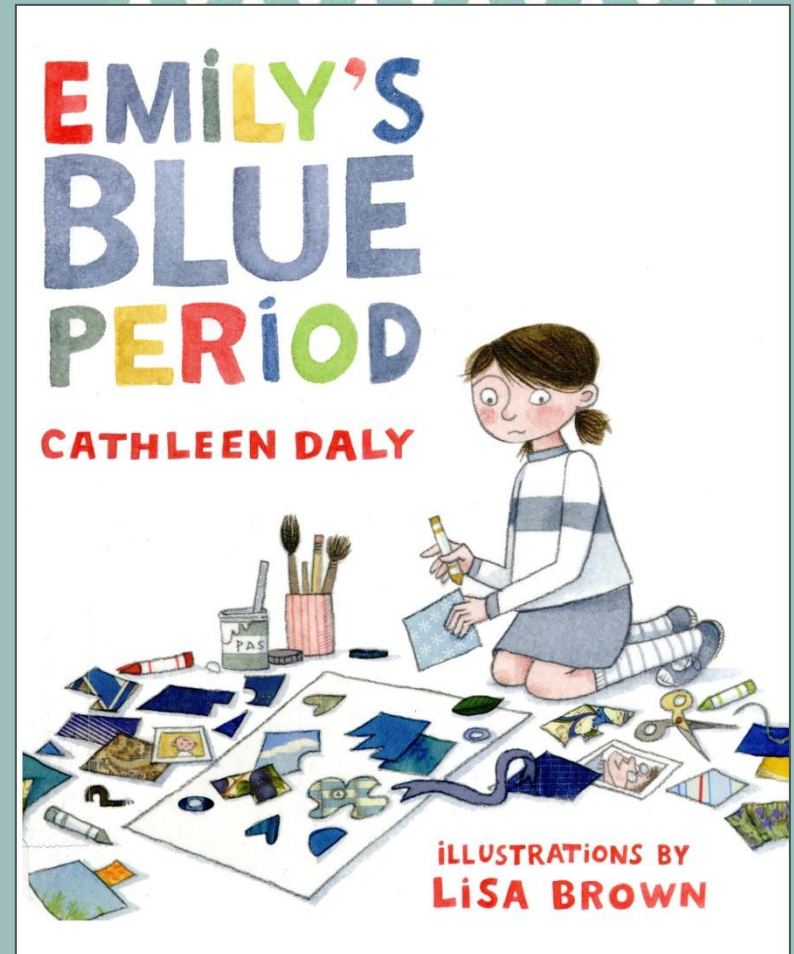
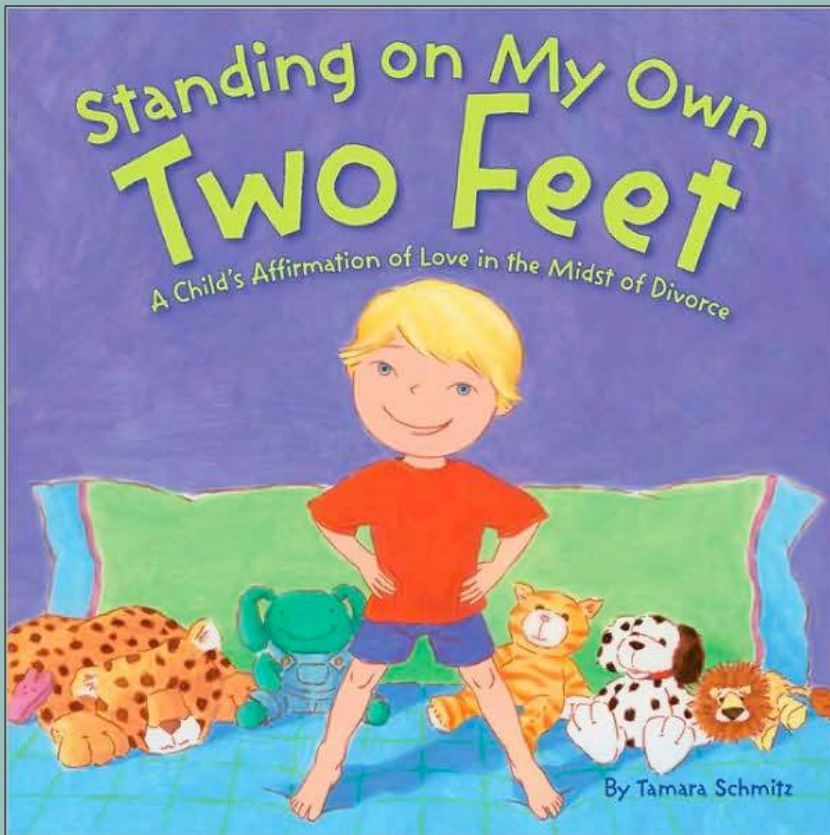


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EMOTIONS

CONCLUSIONS



- ❖ Generalizable
- ❖ Social Acceptance
- ❖ Bibliotherapy
- ❖ Diversity
- ❖ Awareness

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THANK YOU!

Email: laycraft@ualberta.ca

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