



Fly Away Home

Eve Bunting , Ronald Himler (Illustrations)

Download now

Read Online →

Fly Away Home

Eve Bunting , Ronald Himler (Illustrations)

Fly Away Home Eve Bunting , Ronald Himler (Illustrations)

A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal trying not to be noticed, is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its freedom.

Fly Away Home Details

Date : Published March 22nd 1993 by Clarion Books (first published 1991)

ISBN : 9780395664155

Author : Eve Bunting , Ronald Himler (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Realistic Fiction, Family

 [Download Fly Away Home ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Fly Away Home ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Fly Away Home Eve Bunting , Ronald Himler (Illustrations)

From Reader Review Fly Away Home for online ebook

Amy says

This book deals with the important issue of homelessness. Instead of the streets, a boy and his father live in the airport where the number one rule is not getting noticed. They dress in all blue, sleep in different terminals each night, and be sure not to sit with other "regulars." During the day, Dad leaves the airport to work while the boy stays with another airport family. The boy does not go to school but Dad says next fall he will figure out a way so he can.

One day the boy followed a bird that was stuck in the airport. When it finally found an open door, the boy urged it to "fly away home." At the end of the story as the boy thinks he and dad will live in the airport forever, he thinks about the bird singing as he flew away to freedom.

The story illustrates the sadness of their situation and the hope for the future as both the boy and his father work and save to be able to have their own home.

Rebecca Hipps says

It's difficult for me to give my reaction to this book, because I find the text and images so incredibly powerful. From the first opening, we get an honest view of a hard-working father and his son, striving to create a better life for themselves. The first statement abruptly introduces the reader to the boy's reality: "My dad and I live in an airport. That's because we don't have a home and the airport is better than the streets." As I read this book, I continued to appreciate Bunting's matter-of-fact way of presenting the story. I think that this forward way of discussing the subject of homelessness creates a piece that is well worth discussing. This is an important read because it shows the complexities of homelessness. The bird serves as a symbol of the hope that lives in the boy and his father, as they work everyday to escape the captivity associated with homelessness. The faded watercolor images were like windows into the world of the boy, his father, and their friends. They cause the reader to consider this perspective and rather than judge or feel pity, experience both the frustrations and hope the family experiences as they observe the comings and goings of others through the airport, as well as the small joys they discover as they create their sense of home in an airport. While the notion of home is the clear desire of the families, it is interesting how the reader, as an outsider, picks up on the feeling of home the families have created among each other.

Colby Sharp says

My favorite picture book of all time. I have never not cried while reading it. Today, my fourth graders were completely engrossed in this heartbreaking story of a boy, his dad, an airport, and hope.

Cheryl says

Powerful, and not overwhelmingly sad. Not for the littlest ones. A note about further reading would be nice; expect questions.

Dolly says

This book depicts the stark reality of life for a homeless father and son living at the airport. The story offers a glimpse of hope and shows what lengths the father goes to in order to keep his son safe and with him. Our girls were shocked to learn that people could live this way and it really made us appreciate our home and the lives we lead.

The watercolor illustrations help to convey the anonymity of the father and son in their attempts to merely blend in with the crowd and not be noticed. And I loved that the boy's father insisted that he start school no matter where they lived, although it was a bit sad that the older boy, Denny, was not attending school.

Overall, it's a sad, but somewhat hopeful tale that really helps us learn about lives that are very different from our own. We really enjoyed reading this book together (and our oldest said that she'd read it at least four times in school already.)

interesting quote:

"It took a while, but a door opened. And when the bird left, when it flew free, I know it was singing." (p.32)

Lindsay says

Eve Bunting has an amazing way of discussing life's many experiences and tragedies in sensitive and "kid-friendly" words. Eve Bunting honestly depicts real-life problems, such as homelessness in "Fly Away Home". I decided to read this book because I am familiar with her book "The Wall" in which she tells about the tragedies of war and the lingering loss that occurs after a war is over. One of the best aspects of this story and "The Wall," is how Bunting narrates the story from the perspective of a young child. Instead of simply telling children that these struggles and tragedies are meant to be sad and taken seriously, she expresses the actual emotions and perceptions a young child would have if in this situation. I'd really like to read this book to my students to see and hear their reactions. They always have a very strong reaction to "The Wall," however, that topic is somewhat removed from their own lives. Homelessness, however, is something many of my students currently deal with or have dealt with in the past. Although this book makes you feel sad and hopeless, I do like how real and relatable her story is to social issues and how the simple language makes it easy for students to understand and sympathize with what's going on.

Emma says

In life, something bad might happen to you and affect your whole entire life. Well, that's what happened in the book, Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting. The little 6 year old boy and his dad are homeless and they live in an airport, they lost all of their money. This kind of relates to the song Temporary Home by Carrie Underwood when she said, "this is my temporary home, it's not where I belong". The boy and the dad are resourceful because the dad goes to work, the boy saves his money in his shoe, and they live in an airport.

One reason why the boy and dad are resourceful is because dad goes to work to get money. In the text it says, "Dad is a janitor for an office in the city. Sometimes when he comes home and has extra money, he'll buy us dinner." This proves this by showing that if he gets paid more than usual he will take them to a not so fancy diner in the airport. This shows that they are resourceful because he was using extra money to buy food.

One more reason why the boy and dad are resourceful is that the boy and his friend find luggage carts and return them for \$1.00 or more. For example, "sometimes when people don't tip Denny will say, "stingy!" This shows that the boy and the dad are resourceful because they use their money wisely so they will have enough to buy a home or do something else important." For example, "we eat in the cafeterias and have breakfast there because it's not a lot of money.

One more reason that they are resourceful is that they live in an airport. For example, "my dad and I live in an airport. That's better than living on the streets. We are careful not to get caught." This shows that the boy and the dad are resourceful because they they don't have anywhere to stay so they chose the airport.

As you can see the boy and the dad are resourceful because the boy was saving his money in his shoe. He did this because they are poor and he wanted to help out his dad. In the text, the author said, "Then I remembered the bird. It took a while but a door opened. When the bird left, flew free, I know it was singing."

By: Emma Pickle

Catherine Kirk says

"Fly Away Home" is a realistic fiction picture book about a homeless boy and his father. The book tells about how they live in an airport, and basically just describes daily life for them: where they sleep and eat, what they wear and how they make money. Although the man has a job, he is clearly still not in a position to buy or rent a home, and the boy discusses his bitterness and sadness over the fact that they have nowhere to live. The story ends on a positive and hopeful note though, as the boy recalls a bird that was trapped inside the terminal and found a way out through the automatic doors. While the ending is not an unrealistic one of "they found a house and everyone lived happily ever after" it does provide that hope that eventually things will take a turn for the better and the boy will have his own home.

The illustrations by Ronald Himler are realistic watercolors that show the details of the boy's life very well. They add to the story by giving it an element of realism. Students can see these pictures and realize that people like Andrew and his father are real and that homelessness is a problem.

I think this book would be great in discussing diversity. Andrew and his father are different from most people because they live in an airport, but they are also similar to us in many ways. I think after reading this story, students would understand that homeless people aren't "weird" or "gross", they are just like us but don't have a place to call home the way we do. This book could really open doors for some great classroom discussion with students. I would use this book with 3rd-5th grade students.

Jackie Douthat says

When I first read this book I teared up. It was very sad however, I think this would be a good book to share with students. I would use this book to encourage maybe a service project where the class might think of ways to help others. This would be a great book to teach empathy and encourage students to want to help those in need.

L-Crystal Wlodek says

Fly Away Home is recommended for students in kindergarten through fourth grade. This book is about a homeless boy and his father who live at the airport. They move from terminal to terminal, sitting and sleeping in chairs, washing up in the bathroom, and eating in the food court, hoping not to get caught. They are given hope that they will be able to escape the airport to freedom and live in their own home when they see a trapped bird who finally finds its freedom.

This heartwarming and touching book takes a realistic look into the lives of the homeless. The author successfully presents a difficult subject in picture book format, as the text and illustrations work well together and complement one another. A small child narrates the facts of being homeless, sleeping, washing up in the bathroom, and avoiding being noticed. The simple text runs through all of the child's emotions from a matter-of-fact acceptance to a fierce longing and anger that he does not have a home. However, he realizes it could be worse and he could be living on the street without a roof over his head. Soft watercolors are used and this helps show the impersonal spaces through which he and his father live. The author often places them at the back or edge of the pictures, implying their need to be unnoticed. This story is grim and serious, and a solution is not given, but there is a sense of hope. However, there is a definite strength, togetherness, love, and determination between father and son shown. The book focuses on giving the child's-eye view of homelessness in a unique way, making this a great and heartwarming book. This book can be used in the classroom when discussing job loss, the economy, strength, determination, and family.

Katina says

This is a sad but good of happened story. "My dad and I live in an airport> That's because we don't have a home and the airport is better than the streets. We are careful not to get caught." The first page drew me in to read more. A young boy and his father spend their days living in airport. The boy shares tips on how not to get caught. "Don't get noticed." The sit separately not to get caught. The boy watches a bird that flies into the airport and is trapped inside. He compares his life to the bird and hopes one day like the bird he will be free and live outside of the airport. This is a beautiful illustrated book. Although it is a picture book I think it could be read by higher grades because of the context of the story. This is sad story but an important story discuss. There are many homeless families in schools. It is important to address situations like these to students. Students will have a better understanding of how some of their classmates feel.

Leane says

Summary: This book deals with the issue of homelessness. It is told through the eyes of a young boy named Andrew. Andrew is being raised by his father and they live together in an airport. Trying to remain unnoticed, Andrew tells the reader about his daily life and how it is both similar and different than that of a child with a home. He leaves us with the hope that someday he, like the trapped bird in the window, can flee his current living situation and return home.

Issues: The main issue of this book is homelessness but specifically a child who is homeless. Child readers are able to make connections between their lives and Andrew's life because the book is told from a child's point-of-view. Some of the differences that can be discussed are:

1. rules in a child's house vs. the rules in an airport
2. children's clothing vs. Andrew's blue, inconspicuous clothing
3. friends vs. Andrew's friends
4. daily routine (school, chores, etc.) vs. Andrew's lack of routine or purpose
5. daily conversation/communication with others vs. Andrew's lack of conversation with others
6. a child's growth of identity and self-awareness vs. Andrew's lack of identity

Towards the second half of the book, I started to notice some similarities between Andrew and a child reader. These would be a great addition to a discussion:

1. Andrew eats breakfast each morning
2. Andrew's dad goes to work
3. Andrew has a babysitter
4. Andrew does odd jobs for change
5. Andrew has a friend named Denny
6. Andrew eats dinner every night
7. Andrew will go to school when he is old enough because it is important to get an education

I think that students may have a rough time relating to a child who is homeless and lives in an airport. Yet by discussing some of these similarities, we can bridge the gap between Andrew and the reader.

A final important theme is hope. Andrew watches a bird that is trapped in the airport and after several days escapes. Andrew feels that he is in a similar situation and longs for the day when he can be free of the airport and return to the kind of life he lived before his mother died. I find hope to be an important word as it is so commonly associated with the theme of peace and social justice. No matter what horrible situations we may find ourselves in, we can encourage ourselves and others to hope for the best and think positively and creatively. That is the only way that we can find solutions to our problems and improve our world.

Jennifer says

What an interesting book. I can't wait to use this to teach my students how to find the author's purpose. This book was so powerful and makes you think about issues you don't always see.

Malbadeen says

Tomorrow I'm going to do what I rarely do, which is to read a book to students for the sole purpose of teaching a lesson.

I was with a group of students today that spewed stereotypes about homeless people for a good 20 minutes. They naively asked questions and recalled experiences they've had in encountering homeless people without realizing that in our school, meaning their classmates, we currently have somewhere near 30 homeless students in attendance.

On the plus side, Eve Bunting is a great writer and we can enjoy the prose will being indoctrinated.

L12_luisespinoza Espinoza says

"My dad and I live in an airport. That's because we don't have a home and the airport is better than the streets." This is how this touching picture book opens up. It effectively presents the difficult subject of homelessness and does a wonderful job of doing it in a way that does not oversimplify the subject or imply hopelessness. The story is about a dad and his preschool-age son (although the book does not provide his age) who live in an airport. The story is told in narrative form from the boy's perspective and shares his emotions of being homeless from feeling safe through a community of other homeless people living in the airport, to bitterness and anger from watching people arrive from their flights and greeting their loved ones with "It's so good to be home", to sadness thinking that the airport will be his permanent home as he states "I think Dad and I will be here forever". In addition, the illustrator provides pictures that complement the mood of the story through his use of soft watercolors and placement of characters in the pictures. During one part of the story, the boy notices a little brown bird trapped in the terminal that is trying to get out. The author does a really nice job of highlighting the parallel between the bird finally escaping the terminal when a sliding door opens and the boy's longing for the day when he and his dad can also leave the terminal. At the end of the book, the boy is seen looking out the window of the terminal contemplating about his circumstance and saying "Then I remember the bird. It took a while, but a door opened. And when the bird left, when it flew free, I know it was singing."

While this can be a difficult subject to tackle with students, the book does a really nice job of portraying homelessness in all its aspects, including hope. This book is appropriate for students grades K-3rd and the DVD format is an excellent complement to the book. It is part of the Reading Rainbow series shown on PBS and expands the subject to include examples of children, young adults, and families that have experienced homelessness from different perspectives. Another book that would be a good complement to this subject for this same age group would be "Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen", by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan.
