

Reading for Grades 3 to 5

Coman, Carolyn. ***What Jamie Saw***. Puffin Reprint, 1997. A Newbury Honor Book.

What Jamie sees is a violent act that robs him of his security, but his innocence is able to sustain him through the bad times.

Freeman, Lory. ***It's My Body***. Parenting Press, 1984.

Empowers children with the idea that their body belongs to them, makes it clear that abusers are not always strangers.

Girard, Linda Walvoord. ***Who is a Stranger and What Should You Do?*** Albert Whitman & Co., 1993.

Helps children learn how to deal with strangers in public places, on the telephone and in cars; emphasizes that the best thing to do is to run away or talk to a trusted adult.

Kehoe, Patricia. ***Something Happened and I'm Scared to Tell: A Book for Young Victims of Abuse***. Parenting Press, 1987.

Helps young victims of sexual abuse realize that the abuse is not their fault, that the perpetrator is to blame.

Laird, Elizabeth. ***Jake's Tower: The Story of a Boy's Triumph Over Cruelty***. Barron's Educational Series, 2002.

A sensitive recounting of an abused boy's painful journey from despair to hope and love.

Magorian, Michelle. ***Goodnight, Mr. Tom***. HarperTrophy, 1986.

Separated from his abusive mother during World War II and evacuated to live in the country with a widower, a young boy learns love and trust.

Martin, Ann. ***Claudia and the Terrible Truth***. Apple, 1998.

Babysitting for two boys whose father verbally abuses both them and their mother, Claudia tells her own mom about the situation; the result is that mother and kids are removed from the house to live with relatives.

Roberts, Willo Davis. ***Don't Hurt Laurie***. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1988.

Laurie's been keeping a secret for longer than she can remember, a secret she's afraid to tell, but if she does, will anyone believe her?

Schmitt, Christine L. ***It Takes Courage***. Paulist Press, 1995.

A tactful and sensitive story of how a situation of child abuse is brought to light and halted through friendship and trust.

Schor, Howard. ***A Place for Starr: A Story of Hope for Children Experiencing Family Violence***. Kidsrights, 2002.

Poetry and superb illustrations detail how Starr found hope in her young life.

Spelman, Cornelia. ***Your Body Belongs to You***. Albert Whitman & Co., 1997.

Helps children recognized that their body belongs to them, the difference between good and bad touches, and that any touching that has to be kept secret is not good touching.

Wetter, Bruce. The ***Boy With The Lampshade on His Head***. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2004.

Fifth-grader Stanley Krakow lives largely in his head, until the situation of his new classmate

Theresa, who is being abused by her mother, makes him emerge from his shell and enlarges his capacity to progress and grow.

White, Ruth. ***Tadpole***. Yearling. 2004.

Ten-year-old Carolina Collins feels like a nobody in a household where her three older sisters are super-achievers, until her cousin Tadpole, an orphan fleeing his abusive guardian, comes to stay.