

Selected Bibliography of Trauma in Children's Literature

DEFINITIONS (Source: <https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types>)

Please note: The human experience is intersectional. Just as people can experience more than one type of trauma, many books include multiple types of traumatic experiences. The definitions and sorted categories below are *suggestive*, not definitive.

Child Abuse and Neglect: physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, religious abuse, manipulation, isolation, societal marginalization, starvation, neglect, LGBTQIA+ abuse, gender-based abuse, suicide, death

Community Violence: exposure to intentional acts of interpersonal violence, gang violence, bullying, school shootings, neighborhood shootings, stabbings, bombings, kidnappings, murders, civil wars, religious persecution or abuse, terrorist attack, homicide, sexual assault, robbery, weaponized attack, suicide, death

Domestic Violence: threats, harm, controlling behavior, coercive behavior, stalking, terrorizing, blaming, hurting, humiliation, manipulation, intentional isolation, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, LGBTQIA+ abuse, trans abuse, abuse of women, elder abuse, rape, suicide, death

Environmental Trauma: natural disasters, climate change, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, wildfires, tsunamis, floods, extreme heat, windstorms, blizzards, droughts, death

Medical Trauma: pain, injury, serious illness, chronic illness, mental illness, invasive treatments, frightening treatments, misdiagnosis, serious diagnosis, institutionalization, gender-based abuse, death

Peer Victimization: physical, verbal or social bullying, hitting, kicking, tripping, name-calling, threatening, sexual comments, spreading rumors, public humiliation, deliberate exclusion, cyberbullying, gender-based abuse, LGBTQIA+ abuse, suicide, death

Race-Based Trauma: colonialism, genocide, slavery, white supremacy, structural racism, systemic racism, institutional racism, incarceration, interpersonal racism, micro-aggressions, systemic exclusion, systemic targeting, systemic violence, invisibilization, dismissal, hidden history, erasure, intentional suppression of traditions of health and healing, suppression of ancestral practices, environmental racism, racist land use, racist ownership policies, isolation, hate speech, marginalization, dehumanization, racist violence, brutality, homicide, communal violence, secondary violence, vicarious exposure to violence and violent attitudes, intergenerational trauma, depression, anxiety, suicide, death

Refugee Trauma: war, religious persecution, imprisonment, torture, displacement, resettlement, suicide, death

Sexual Trauma: sexual abuse, voyeurism, exhibitionism, pornography, rape, manipulation, coercion, molestation, sex trafficking, incest, suicide, death

Traumatic Grief: depression, suicide, death

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SORTED BY TRAUMA TOPIC:

Child Abuse and Neglect

- Acevedo, Elizabeth. *The Poet X*. Quill Tree Books, 2018. (religious trauma)
- Appelt, Kathi. *Keeper*. Illustrated by August Hall. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Booth, Coe. *Kinda Like Brothers*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2015.
- Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War That Saved My Life*. Dial Books for Young Readers-Penguin Group, 2015.
- Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *Sara Crewe: Or, What Happened at Miss Minchin's Boarding School*, 1888.
- Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2007.
- . *Matilda*. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2007.
- DiCamillo, Kate. *Louisiana's Way Home*. Candlewick Press, 2018.
- . *The Tale of Despereaux*. Candlewick Press, 2003.
- Ogle, Rex. *Free Lunch*. Norton Young Readers, 2021.
- Omololu, C. J. *Dirty Little Secrets*. Walker Childrens, 2010.
- Peña, Matt de la. *Love*. Illustrated by Loren Long. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2018.
- Reyes, Sonora. *The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School*. Balzer + Bray, 2022. (religious trauma)
- Small, David. *Stitches: A Memoir*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2010.
- Snicket, Lemony. *A Series of Unfortunate Events #1: The Bad Beginning*. Reprint edition. HarperCollins, 2009.
- Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home*. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019.
- Watson, Renée. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. *Maya's Song*. HarperCollins, 2022.
- Williams, Alicia D. *Genesis Begins Again*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2020.
- Yolen, Jane. *Finding Baba Yaga: A Short Novel in Verse*. Tordotcom, 2018.

Community Violence

- Arnold, Elana K. *The Blood Years*. HarperCollins, 2023.
- Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic Press, 2009.
- Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*. Kokila, 2018.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. *A Place to Belong*. Illustrated by Julie Kuo. Thorndike Striving Reader, 2020.
- Magoon, Kekla. *How It Went Down*. Square Fish, 2015.
- Marsh, Katherine. *The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine*. Roaring Brook Press, 2023.
- Reed, Christina Hammonds. *The Black Kids*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2020.
- Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2019.
- Ruby, Laura. *Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All*. Balzer + Bray, 2021.
- Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home*. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019.

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Domestic Violence

- Avasthi, Swati. *Split*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Ogle, Rex. *Free Lunch*. Norton Young Readers, 2021.
- Peña, Matt de la. *Love*. Illustrated by Loren Long. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2018.
- Tison, Ari. *Saints of the Household*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2023.

Environmental Trauma

- Lindstrom, Carole. *We Are Water Protectors*. Illustrated by Michaela Goade. Roaring Brook Press, 2020.
- Rivera, Lilliam. *Never Look Back*. Bloomsbury YA, 2020.

Medical Trauma

- Millington, Allie. *Olivetti*. Feiwel & Friends, 2024.
- Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes. Candlewick, 2018.
- Wolk, Lauren. *Echo Mountain*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2020.
- Ying, Victoria. *Hungry Ghost*. First Second, 2023.
- Yoon, Nicola. *The Sun Is Also a Star*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2016.

Peer Victimization

- Barnhart, Cathleen. *That's What Friends Do*. Quill Tree Books, 2021.
- Hanna Alkaf. *The Girl and the Ghost*. New York, NY: Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2020.
- Keller, Tae. *Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone*. Random House Books for Young Readers, 2022.
- Levithan, David. *Two Boys Kissing*. Ember, 2015.
- Polacco, Patricia. *Bully*. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2012.
- Suma, Nova Ren. *The Walls Around Us*. Algonquin Young Readers, 2016.
- Williams, Alicia D. *Genesis Begins Again*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2020.
- Wolk, Lauren. *Wolf Hollow*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2016.

Race-Based Trauma

- Acevedo, Elizabeth. *The Poet X*. Quill Tree Books, 2018.
- Adeyemi, Tomi. *Children of Blood and Bone*. Square Fish, 2024.
- Ahmed, Samira. *Hollow Fires*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023.
- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010.
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- . *Warrior Girl Unearthed*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2023.
- Collier, Bryan. *We Shall Overcome*. Orchard Books, 2021.
- Ho, Joanna. *Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma*. Illustrated by Teresa Martínez. HarperCollins, 2021.
- Ho, Joanna. *The Silence That Binds Us*. New York, NY: HarperTeen, 2022.

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- Maslo, Lina. *Free as a Bird*. Balzer + Bray, 2020.
- Nelson, Marilyn. *A Wreath for Emmett Till*. Illustrated by Philippe Lardy. Houghton Mifflin Co, 2005.
- Phi, Bao. *A Different Pond*. Illustrated by Thi Bui. Capstone Young Readers, 2017.
- Reed, Christina Hammonds. *The Black Kids*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2020.
- Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2019.
- Robertson, David A. *When We Were Alone*. Illustrated by Julie Flett. HighWater Press, 2016.
- Stone, Nic. *Dear Martin*. Reprint edition. New York: Ember, 2018.
- Thomas, Angie, and Amanda Stenberg. *The Hate U Give: A Printz Honor Winner*. Balzer + Bray, 2022.
- Tian, XiXi. *This Place Is Still Beautiful*. Balzer + Bray, 2023.
- Tokuda-Hall, Maggie. Illustrated by Yas Imamura. *Love in the Library*. Candlewick, 2024.
- Watson, Renée. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. *Maya's Song*. HarperCollins, 2022.
- Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Carolrhoda Books®, 2021.
- . *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*. Illustrated by Eku Holmes. Candlewick, 2018.
- Williams, Alicia D. *Genesis Begins Again*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2020.

Refugee Trauma

- Faruqi, Reem. *Unsettled*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2021.
- Abdi, Zaynab, Aziz Kamal, Craig Moodie, Karelin, Ruth Mekoulom, Alex Tsipenyuk, Zurya Anjum, et al., eds. *Our Stories Carried Us Here: A Graphic Novel Anthology*. Green Card Voices, 2021.
- Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*. Kokila, 2018.
- Ho, Joanna. *Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma*. Illustrated by Teresa Martínez. HarperCollins, 2021.
- Kadohata, Cynthia. *A Place to Belong*. Illustrated by Julie Kuo. Thorndike Striving Reader, 2020.
- Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out and Back Again*. HarperCollins, 2011.
- Marsh, Katherine. *The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine*. Roaring Brook Press, 2023.
- Nayeri, Daniel. *Everything Sad Is Untrue*. Levine Querido, 2020.
- Nguyen, Trung Le. *The Magic Fish*. Random House Graphic, 2020.
- Nye. *19 Varieties of Gazelle*. Grenwillow, 2005.
- Phi, Bao. *A Different Pond*. Illustrated by Thi Bui. Capstone Young Readers, 2017.
- Rosenstock, Barb. *The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art*. Illustrated by Claire Nivola. Candlewick, 2018.

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- Sanna, Francesca. *The Journey*. Flying Eye Books, 2016.
- Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home*. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019.
- Wang, Andrea. *Watercress*. Illustrated by Jason Chin. Neal Porter Books, 2021.
- Yang, Kao Kalia. *The Rock in My Throat*. Illustrated by Jiemei Lin. Carolrhoda Books®, 2024.

Sexual Trauma

- Arnold, Elana K. *Damsel*. New York: Balzer + Bray, An Imprint of
———. *Infamous*. Carolrhoda Lab®, 2017.
- . *Red Hood*. Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2020.
- Barnhart, Cathleen. *That's What Friends Do*. Quill Tree Books, 2021.
- Booth, Coe. *Caprice*. Scholastic Press, 2022.
- Boulley, Angeline. *Firekeeper's Daughter*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2021.
- . *Warrior Girl Unearthed*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2023.
- Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *Fighting Words*. Dial Books, 2021.
- Colbert, Brandy. *Pointe*. Putnam Pub Group, 2014.
- Jackson, Tiffany D. *Grown*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2021.
- King, A. S. *Dig*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2019.
- Lanagan, Margo. *Tender Morsels*. Ember, 2010.
- McCullough, Joy. *Enter the Body*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2024.
- Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap*. Balzer + Bray-HarperCollins, 2015.
- Watson, Renée. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. *Maya's Song*. HarperCollins, 2022.

Traumatic Grief

- Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *Iveliz Explains It All*. Random House Books for Young Readers, 2022.
- Callender, Kacen. *King and the Dragonflies*. Scholastic Press, 2020.
- Chee, Traci. *The Reader*. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2016.
- Mcbride, Amber. *Me: Moth*. Square Fish, 2023.
- Millington, Allie. *Olivetti*. Feiwel & Friends, 2024.

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Picture Books

- Collier, Bryan. *We Shall Overcome*. Orchard Books, 2021.
- Ho, Joanna. *Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma*. Illustrated by Teresa Martínez. HarperCollins, 2021.
- Levy, Debbie. *We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song*. Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton. Brown Books for Young Readers, 2013.
- Lindstrom, Carole. *We Are Water Protectors*. Illustrated by Michaela Goade. Roaring Brook Press, 2020.
- Maslo, Lina. *Free as a Bird*. Balzer + Bray, 2020.
- Peña, Matt de la. *Love*. Illustrated by Loren Long. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2018.
- Phi, Bao. *A Different Pond*. Illustrated by Thi Bui. Capstone Young Readers, 2017.

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- Polacco, Patricia. *Bully*. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2012.
- Robertson, David A. *When We Were Alone*. Illustrated by Julie Flett. HighWater Press, 2016.
- Rosenstock, Barb. *The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art*. Illustrated by Claire Nivola. Candlewick, 2018.
- Sanna, Francesca. *The Journey*. Flying Eye Books, 2016.
- Tokuda-Hall, Maggie. *Love in the Library*. Illustrated by Yas Imamura. Candlewick, 2024.
- Wang, Andrea. *Watercress*. Illustrated by Jason Chin. Neal Porter Books, 2021.
- Watson, Renée. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. *Maya's Song*. HarperCollins, 2022.
- Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Carolrhoda Books®, 2021.
- . *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*. Illustrated by Ekuu Holmes. Candlewick, 2018.
- Yang, Kao Kalia. *The Rock in My Throat*. Illustrated by Jiemei Lin. Carolrhoda Books®, 2024.

Chapter Books

- Jon Klassen. *The Skull: A Tyrolean Folktale*. Candlewick, 2023.

Middle Grade

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Appelt, Kathi. *Keeper*. Illustrated by August Hall. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *Iveliz Explains It All*. Random House Books for Young Readers, 2022.
- Booth, Coe. *Caprice*. Scholastic Press, 2022.
- . *Kinda Like Brothers*. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2015.
- Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *Fighting Words*. Dial Books, 2021.
- . *The War That Saved My Life*. Dial Books for Young Readers-Penguin Group, 2015.
- Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *Sara Crewe: Or, What Happened at Miss Minchin's Boarding School*, n.d.
- Callender, Kacen. *King and the Dragonflies*. Scholastic Press, 2020.
- Chee, Traci. *The Reader*. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2016.
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- Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2007.
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- Magoon, Kekla. *How It Went Down*. Square Fish, 2015.
- Marsh, Katherine. *The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine*. Roaring Brook Press, 2023.

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- McLemore, Anna-Marie. *When the Moon Was Ours*. Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Griffin, 2016.
- Millington, Allie. *Olivetti*. Feiwel & Friends, 2024.
- Nayeri, Daniel. *Everything Sad Is Untrue*. Levine Querido, 2020.
- Snicket, Lemony. *A Series of Unfortunate Events #1: The Bad Beginning*. Reprint edition. HarperCollins, 2009.
- Venkatraman, Padma. *The Bridge Home*. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019.
- Williams, Alicia D. *Genesis Begins Again*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2020.
- Wolk, Lauren. *Echo Mountain*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2020.
- . *Wolf Hollow*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2016.

Young Adult

- Acevedo, Elizabeth. *The Poet X*. Quill Tree Books, 2018.
- Adeyemi, Tomi. *Children of Blood and Bone*. Square Fish, 2024.
- Ahmed, Samira. *Hollow Fires*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023.
- Anderson, M. T., e E. Charlton-Trujillo, A. S. King, David Levithan, Cory McCarthy, Anna-Marie McLemore, G. Neri, Jason Reynolds, Randy Ribay, and Jenny Torres Sanchez. *The Collectors: Stories*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2023.
- . *Infamous*. Carolrhoda Lab ®, 2017.
- . *Red Hood*. Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2020.
- . *The Blood Years*. HarperCollins, 2023.
- Avasthi, Swati. *Split*. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010.
- Boulley, Angeline. *Firekeeper's Daughter*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2021.
- . *Warrior Girl Unearthed*. Henry Holt and Company, 2023.
- Brown, Roseanne A. *A Song of Wraiths and Ruin*. Balzer + Bray, 2021.
- Chainani, Soman. *Beasts and Beauty: Dangerous Tales*. HarperCollins, 2021.
- Colbert, Brandy. *Pointe*. Putnam Pub Group, 2014.
- Collins, Suzanne. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic Press, 2009.
- Heppermann, Christine. *Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty*. Greenwillow Books, 2014.
- Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*. Kokila, 2018.
- Ho, Joanna. *The Silence That Binds Us*. HarperTeen, 2022.
- Ireland, Justina. *Dread Nation*. Balzer + Bray, 2019.
- King, A. S. *Dig*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2019.
- Jackson, Tiffany D. *Grown*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2021.
- Lanagan, Margo. *Tender Morsels*. Ember, 2010.
- Lee, Stacey. *Under a Painted Sky*. Speak, 2016.
- Levithan, David. *Two Boys Kissing*. Ember, 2015.
- McCullough, Joy. *Enter the Body*. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2024.
- Méndez, Yamile Saied, and Amparo Ortiz. *Our Shadows Have Claws: 15 Latin American Monster Stories*. Algonquin Young Readers, 2023.
- Omololu, C. J. *Dirty Little Secrets*. Walker Childrens, 2010.
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- Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap*. Balzer + Bray-HarperCollins, 2015.

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- . *Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All*. Balzer + Bray, 2021.
- Stone, Nic. *Dear Martin*. Reprint edition. New York: Ember, 2018.
- Suma, Nova Ren. *The Walls Around Us*. Algonquin Young Readers, 2016.
- Tahir, Sabaa. *All My Rage*. Razorbill, 2022.
- Thomas, Angie, and Amandla Stenberg. *The Hate U Give: A Printz Honor Winner*. Balzer + Bray, 2022.
- Tian, XiXi. *This Place Is Still Beautiful*. Balzer + Bray, 2023.
- Tison, Ari. *Saints of the Household*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2023.
- Yolen, Jane. *Finding Baba Yaga: A Short Novel in Verse*. Tordotcom, 2018.
- Yoon, Nicola. *The Sun Is Also a Star*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2016.

Graphic Novels

- Abdi, Zaynab, Aziz Kamal, Craig Moodie, Karelin, Ruth Mekoulom, Alex Tsipenyuk, Zurya Anjum, et al., eds. *Our Stories Carried Us Here: A Graphic Novel Anthology*. Green Card Voices, 2021.
- Curato, Mike. *Flamer*. Henry Holt and Co., 2020.
- Nguyen, Trung Le. *The Magic Fish*. Random House Graphic, 2020.
- Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2020.
- Small, David. *Stitches: A Memoir*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2010.
- Ying, Victoria. *Hungry Ghost*. First Second, 2023.

Nonfiction

- Ho, Joanna. *Playing at the Border: A Story of Yo-Yo Ma*. Illustrated by Teresa Martínez. HarperCollins, 2021.
- Levy, Debbie. *We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song*. Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton. Brown Books for Young Readers, 2013.
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Poetry

- Nelson, Marilyn. *A Wreath for Emmett Till*. Illustrated by Philippe Lardy. Houghton Mifflin Co, 2005.
- Nye. *19 Varieties of Gazelle*. Grenwillow, 2005.

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- Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Shouting at the Rain*. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019.
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