



## Youth Programs Book List



### Preschool-Age Books

- A Lesson About Deployment by Ron Madison (Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
  - It is a series of short (1-2 page) poem-style accounts by characters about their experiences/feelings.
- American by the Numbers by Devin Scillian (Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> grade)
  - Author Devin Scillian and illustrator Pam Carroll weave their magic around the symbols of Americana that make us proud in One Nation: America by the Numbers, a follow-up to A is for America: An American Alphabet. More than a counting book, One Nation illuminates the landmarks and treasures that are uniquely American.
- Hooray for Our Heroes, Sesame Street (Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> grade)
  - The residents of Sesame Street discover that heroes are found in every place, every day. Sometimes they are firefighters and police officers, whose jobs are heroic in nature. And sometimes they are your neighbors down the street who do favors, large and small, that make life a little better for everyone. This is a reassuring story that reminds us that there are all sorts of heroes, whether they are a teacher, a parent, or a friend and that you don't always have to brave great danger to be someone's hero.

### Additional Pre-School Aged Books

- Bearable Moments by Christopher Judd (Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Daddy/Mommy You're My Hero! By Michelle Ferguson-Cohen (Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Daddy's In Iraq but I Want Him Back! By Carmen R. Hoyt (Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- I Miss You! A Military Kids Book About Deployment by Beth Andrews (Preschool- Kindergarten)
- My Daddy's In the Military He Flies a Big Plane by Jana Kurzeja (Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- My Father Is Far Away by Robin Ballard (Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Over There Mommy/Daddy Version by Zero to Three (0-Preschool)

### Elementary- Aged Books

- A Paper Hug by Stephanie Skolmoski (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
  - Have you ever said good-bye to someone very dear? Here's a story about a little boy who figured out the best gift to give his dad who was leaving to serve his country . . . a paper hug.
- A Very long Time by Geri Timperley and Nikki Arro (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - An excellent book for families of military families who leave home for "A Very Long Time". Helps children understand they are not alone because other daddies and mommies leave to serve our Country and a time does come when the military parent does return home.
- Boo Boo Bear's Mission by Mary Linda Sather (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Boo Boo Bear's Mission tells the story of a beloved teddy bear on an important mission. Young Shea Leigh's dad has been deployed to Iraq with the Air National Guard. To help her dad feel less lonely while he is away from his family, Shea Leigh sends Boo Boo Bear to him in a care package.
- How Many Stars In The Sky? By Lenny Hort (3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>)
  - Mama's away one night, and her son can't sleep. He tries to relax by counting stars, but the more of them he sees; the more determined he is to count every single one. Then the boy finds that Daddy can't sleep either. Together, the two of them set off on an unforgettable all-night journey of discovery.

- My Red Balloon by Eve Bunting (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - The boy has been waiting for this day for many months. It's the day his daddy comes home from overseas. He jumps out of bed and gets ready for the big event. But before going downstairs for breakfast, he takes along something very important: his red balloon. There will be many families and loved ones at the pier. The red balloon will help his father find him among the crowd. When the boy and his mother get to the pier, they find parents waiting for daughters and sons, and children waiting for mommies and daddies. Suddenly, the crowd gives up a rousing cheer as the big ship approaches the harbor. The boy can see sailors standing on the deck. Could one of them be his daddy? But as the ship approaches, the boy loses his grip on the red balloon. Will his daddy find him in the crowd?
- Night Catch by Brenda Ehrmantraut (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
  - When a soldier's work takes him half-way around the world, he enlists the help of the North Star for a nightly game of catch with his son.
  - Night Catch is a timeless story that connects families while they are apart and offers comforting hope for their reunion.
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
  - A young raccoon that would rather stay at home than go to school, Jean Kennedy Smith notes that the story is "for any child who confronts a difficult situation, and for the child within each of us who sometimes needs reassurance." Its obvious message is delivered by Mrs. Raccoon, who tells her son that "I know a wonderful secret that will make your nights at school seem as warm and cozy as your days at home." She then kisses his palm, and Chester feels the kiss "rush from his hand, up his arm, and into his heart." Whenever he gets lonely, she advises, he is to press his hand to his cheek and "that very kiss will jump to your face and fill you with toasty warm thoughts." As it may for youngsters in comparable situations, this "secret" works for Chester, who in turn kisses his mother's palm so that she, too, will be reassured.
- The Wishing Tree by Mary Redman (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
  - Amanda understands her dad is making the world a better place, but it doesn't make his deployment any easier. After mulling over ways she can support her dad, Amanda creates a small wishing tree in her room, writing her hopes and prayers on yellow ribbons that she ties onto the branches. As Amanda wishes for her dad to enjoy good meals, make new friends, and return safely, the little tree comes to life with yellow ribbons of hope.

#### Additional Elementary Aged Books

- A is for America by Devin Scillian (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- A Yellow Ribbon For Daddy by Anissa Mersiowsky (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- America Is... by Louise Borden (1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>)
- Daddy Got His Orders by Kathy Mitchell (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Daddy, Will You Miss Me? By Wendy McCormick and Jennifer Eachus (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>)
- Duck for President by Doreen Cronin (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- F is For Flag by Wendy Cheyette Lewison (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Good-Bye 382 Shin Dang Dong by Frances Park (K-4<sup>th</sup>)
- I Pledge Allegiance by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- If You Listen by Charlotte Zolotow (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- I'll See You When the Moon is Full by Jim Fowler (Preschool-5<sup>th</sup>)
- L Is For Liberty by Wendy Cheyette Lewison (Preschool-4<sup>th</sup>)
- Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot by Margot Theis Raven (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- Mommy Don't Go by Elizabeth Crary (K-4<sup>th</sup>)
- More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby (K-4<sup>th</sup>)
- My Dad, Everyone's Soldier by Tiera Rozman (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

- My Daddy is A Guardsman by Kirk and Sharron Hilbrecht (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- My Daddy is A Soldier by Kirk and Sharron Hilbrecht (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- My Mommy Wears Combat Boots by Sharon G. McBride (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- Ned and the General by Ron Madison (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- Operation Celebration by Stephanie Skolmoski (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- Pledge of Allegiance by Scholastic Books (K-4<sup>th</sup>)
- Red, White, and Blue by John Herman (1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>)
- Red, White, and Blue Good-Bye by Sarah Wones Tomp (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- The Flag We Love by Pam Munoz Ryan (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein (Preschool-4<sup>th</sup>)
- The Magic Box by Marty Sederman and Seymour Epstein (K-5<sup>th</sup>)
- Three Little Lambs Somewhere by Susan Amundson (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>)
- While You Are Away by Eileen Spinelli (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- Verdi by Janell Cannon (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

### Middle School- Age Books

- Almost Forever by M. Testa (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - This seemingly simple novel in blank verse captures the feelings of a six-year old girl when father goes to be a doctor in the Vietnam War for a year. We learn about the fear the family feel of their father never returning. Important things to a child like changing where they live and changes in her mother's behavior are highlighted. It also captures well the idea that children do not necessarily understand what is happening to them and their families, and cannot change many things in their lives even if they do understand, they can only observe.
- Dear Blue Sky by Mary Sullivan (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Ever since her brother Sef left for Iraq, Cassie has felt like her life is falling apart. Her parents are fighting over her brother having gone to war. Her smart, beautiful sister is messing up. Her little brother, who has Down syndrome, is pretending he's a Marine. And her best friend no longer has time for her. In her loneliness Cassie turns to a surprising source of comfort: Blue Sky, an Iraqi girl she meets through her blog. The girls begin a correspondence and Cassie learns that when Blue Sky says "I want my life back," she means something profound, as she can no longer venture out in her destroyed city. Cassie takes strength from Blue Sky's courage and is inspired to stop running away from the pain, and to reclaim her life.
- Jack Adrift: Fourth Grade Without a Clue by Jack Gantos (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Jack's father rejoins the Navy after going bankrupt from being cheated in a business deal. Jack, his parents, brother and sister go to live at Cape Hatteras in a camouflage-painted trailer parked in a swamp. Jack's father expresses some dissatisfaction with the Navy. It depicts the family of an enlisted military member through a laugh aloud fun at times theme.
- My Hero: Military Kids Write About Their Moms and Dad by Allen Appel (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)
  - Working through the Armed Services YMCA, Alan Appel and Mike Rothmiller have collected more than 100 essays from children whose parents are serving or have served in the military. The children's heartfelt, moving, sometimes funny, and completely honest observations about their moms and dads truly capture the emotional connection between parent and child.

- **The Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)**
  - This large-format book tells the story of Francis Scott Key and how he came to write "The Star Spangled Banner." In 1814, Key boarded a British ship near Baltimore to request the release of his friend and fellow American, Dr. William Beanes. From the ship's deck, they watched as the British fleet attacked Fort McHenry. As the sun rose, the sight of the American flag still flying above the fort inspired Key to write the song that, in 1931, would become the national anthem.
- **Uncle Sam's Kids When Duty Calls by Angela Sportelli-Rehak (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)**
  - Deployment! An emotional cycle with psychological stages that may affect any child. The author shows parents and caregivers how to address the distinct stages of deployment such as worry, anger, detachment, sadness, recovery and anticipation of homecoming by using fun coping techniques, listening and normalizing common concerns, involvement in some decisions, discovering strength in family and community while promoting patriotism.

### High School- Age Books

- **A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor by Harry Mazer (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**
  - When fourteen year old Adam moves to Hawaii with his mother, small sister and Navy father, he goes to a civilian school for the first time in his life. He makes friends with a boy of Japanese ancestry, Davi, and his father strongly disapproves. Adam sneaks off to go fishing with his new friend and they climb under a fence to fish on Pearl Harbor. In a dramatic and scary sequence they are present at (and injured by) the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Adam sees his father's ship, the USS Arizona sink. In the confusion Adam is assumed to be in the Navy and helps rescuers.
- **After the First Death by Robert Cormier (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**
  - Ben Marchand's father joined the army late in life and is a General when the story opens. When a bus full of children is taken hostage by terrorists Ben is asked by his father to take messages between the government and the terrorists. His father tells Ben this is because he is young and non threatening, but by the end of the book the reader learns that Ben was chosen by his father because his father and the secret government agency he works for have been conducting psychological experiments on Ben his whole life and his father knows exactly how Ben will act under stressful circumstances.
- **Finding My Way by Michelle Sherman (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**
  - A unique, three-part book that honestly and gently addresses key issues in dealing with a parent who has experienced trauma. An important resource for anyone working with teens, this interactive book includes clear information and opportunities for self-expression.
- **Megan Meade's Guide to the McGowan Boys by Kate Brian (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**
  - Megan is used to moving from place to place -- it's typical for an army brat. But she drew the line at South Korea. She insists on staying in the States to finish her last two years of high school. So her parents made arrangements for Megan to live with their friends, the McGowans...and the McGowans' 7 sons.
- **Military Kids Speak by Julie Rahm (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)**
  - Celebrating the role military families play in the success of America as well as their individual accomplishments, Military Kids Speak by former naval physicist and author Julie Rahm is a fascinating and inspired account of what it takes to be a military kid. It's a team effort with a common goal; the mission is to describe what it means to be a part of a military family, what it takes to persevere when it comes to deployments, and living abroad.
- **My Story: Blogs by Four Military Teens by Michelle D. Sherman, Ph.D.**
  - "My Story: Blogs by Four Military Teens" is a series of blogs by four military teens that highlights their feelings and experiences before, during, and after parental deployment. It provides support and education for all military teens and pre-teens by honoring their unique joys and sacrifices, addressing their fears and hopes, and exploring how parental deployment affects their lives.

- Operation: Home Front by Caroline B. Cooney (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Mother Rosalys is a part time kindergarten teacher who joined the reserves to pay for her schooling. Her three children thought her weekend warrior life was a joke until she was called up. “It’s military thought Laura. Before, they were Weekend Warriors and knew it. Now it’s real, and they know it. I don’t want it to be real” (page 39). After Rosalys leaves, the family compulsively watches the news and their family starts to crumble as the house and the four-year-old brother are barely looked after. By the end of the book they pull themselves together and gain a new perspective on Rosalys and themselves.
- The Proving Ground by Elaine Alphin (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Kevin’s father is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army and he has been assigned to a new base, a Proving Ground where weapons are tested. The family experience conflict on the base and in the town where Kevin goes to school. The conflict draws up to an exciting and dramatic climax when Kevin discovers that the Proving Ground and the town are in danger from an unstable youth who thinks his family’s problems stem from the government acquisition of their land in World War II.
- Till Tomorrow by John Donahue (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Twelve year old Terry arrives in France with his family to live on an army base. This book describes the feelings of a military child well, especially the constant moving and the tension between the base community and the local community.
- When the Lights Go Out by Max Elliot Anderson (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Peyton Aldrich's father is an Army colonel, who specializes in Army intelligence. His work is always top secret, which means he can't even discuss it with his own son. Nevertheless, Peyton idolized his father, who believes that after what happened on 9/11, somebody had to help keep the country safe.

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Laura Groeneweg  
 Lead Child and Youth Program Coordinator  
 Office: 651.268.8695  
[laura.l.groeneweg.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:laura.l.groeneweg.ctr@mail.mil)

Moriah Legvold  
 Child and Youth Program Coordinator  
 Office: 651.268.8378  
[moriah.l.legvold.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:moriah.l.legvold.ctr@mail.mil)

