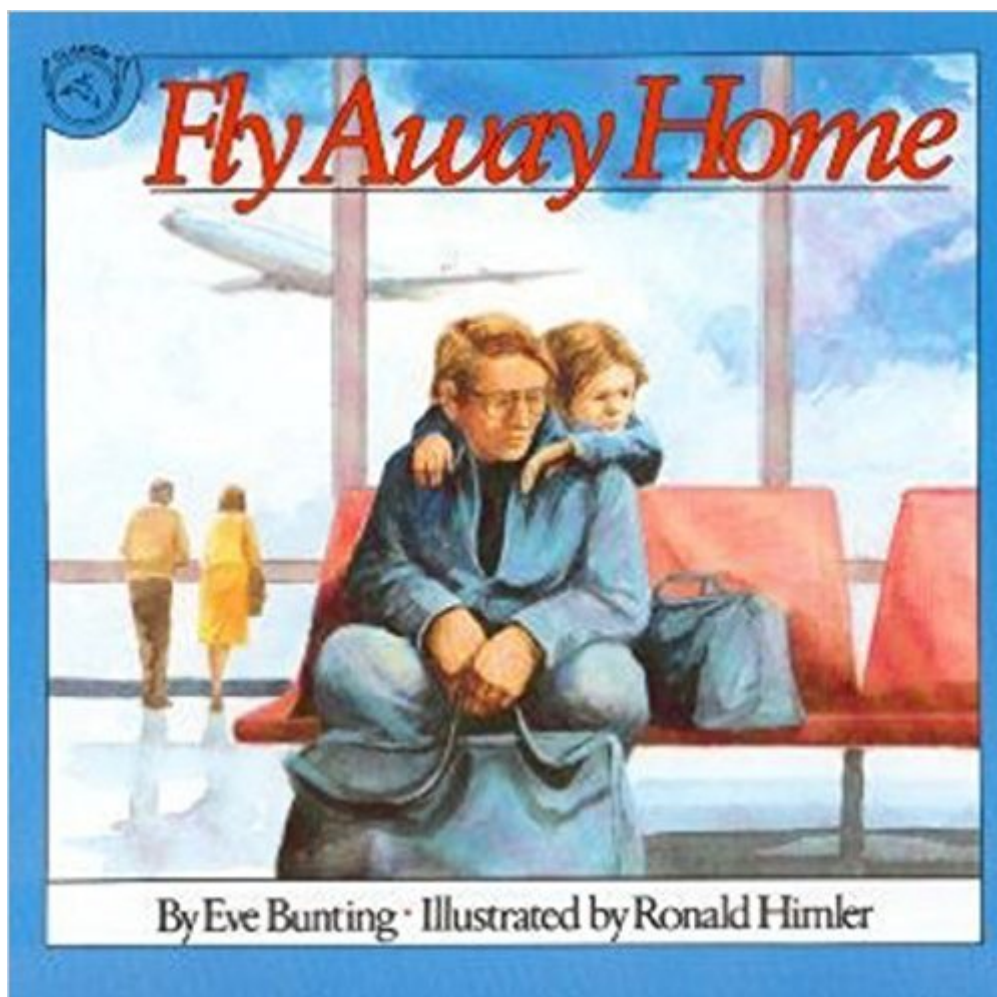


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Fly Away Home



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 450L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (March 22, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395664152

ISBN-13: 978-0395664155

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (64 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,473 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty](#) #69 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men](#) #179 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"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." So begins Ms. Bunting's 1991 story, "Fly Away Home" about a homeless child and his father who live in an airport, spending their days trying to blend in and stay under the radar of local security. Told from the child's perspective, FAH is not an easy book to read, even (and perhaps especially) for adults. Andrew, the narrator, frankly discusses how he and his dad avoid detection by wearing blue, changing terminals, keeping clean in the bathrooms and sleeping sitting up. A number of their fellow homeless friends have been discovered and tossed out, usually for loud or unusual behavior. It's terribly important to Andrew and his dad that they be as invisible as possible. Andrew tells how his dad takes the bus on weekends to a job where he's a janitor and how the Medinas, another homeless family, watch over Andrew on those days. Dad fishes newspapers out of the trash and makes phone calls, presumably about renting an apartment,

but always returns disappointed. The crux of the book comes when Andrew discovers a bird trapped inside the airport. He keeps an eye on it until one day the sliding glass doors open for just a second and whoosh! the bird flies away to freedom. This becomes a sort of metaphor for Andrew as he stands at the window, watching the planes take off at the end; an end in which we don't know what will become of Andrew or his dad. "Fly Away Home" was clearly written before the security crackdown after 9/11, but the message will still ring true to post-9/11 readers.

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