BOOK REVIEW

Little Flower A Journey of Caring
Author: Laura McAndrew
Publisher: CWLA Press (Child Welfare
League of America, Inc.), 1999, 30 pp.

Little Flower poignantly represents the loss, pain, and possibility of hope for the child struggling with foster care placement or living with family members other than their biological parents. Simply illustrated with language that speaks from preschool through latency ages.

This little flower sits on a kitchen windowsill, its view of the outside world blocked by an overgrown shrub. Sometimes the young potted plant gets the nutrients to grow healthy...and sometimes it doesn't. When the homeowners take a trip of an undetermined length, little flower becomes sad, lonely and doesn't receive what it needs to continue to grow. Luckily, a bird at the window one day notices and asks the little flower about itself. Mustering up much courage, the little flower reveals her plight. The bird promises help and gives hope. Help comes and little flower finds that even though she must leave her home she can grow and be happy.

SAD DAYS, GLAD DAYS, A STORY ABOUT DEPRESSION
DeWitt Hamilton
Albert Whitman & Company, Morton Grove, IL, 1995
Reviewed by: Jayne Smith, M.Ed.
Gwinnett School Counselor

Amanda Martha is somewhere between the ages of 8 and 11 years. Part of the appeal of the story is the agelessness of her feelings and perceptions. She is bewildered, confused, and often sad because of her mother's depression.. A disease she cannot see but daily colors her life. Amanda Martha's experiences are poignantly shared and brings a different way of seeing and defining the impact of parent depression.

The hues and tones of the colors and the first person telling of Amanda Martha's story have been powerful in helping the children I work with develop a vocabulary to better express and clarify their own experiences.

In the words of Amanda Martha: "It's like I said. At my house we have sad days, glad days, mostly in-between days.. And some days I will never forget."