



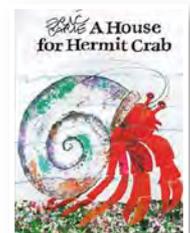
## NOTHING BEATS A GOOD STORY

### Top ten books to ease transition for children

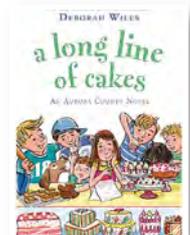
When a child is experiencing a major change in their life, such as starting a new school, moving to a new home or relocating to a new country, it can be a very challenging time for them. However help may be right at hand in the form of a book. Reading and sharing stories that children can relate to their immediate situation can be a very effective way of helping them feel more at ease.

Here's my list of recommended books to support children during a time of change:

***A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle:** Hermit Crab grows out of one house after another as he searches for the perfect home. For any children who are apprehensive about a change that is happening in their life, this book helps to show that growing up and moving on isn't really that scary.



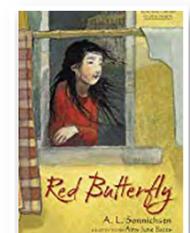
***A Long Line of Cakes* by Deborah Wiles:** The Cake family travels from place to place, setting up bakeries in communities that need them. Then, just as Emma feels settled in with new friends, they move again. This story is a lovely way of showing children how to make their friendships last, even if they move to a new place. At ACS, it is very important that we teach our students how to maintain friendships even if their friends move to another area or country. It is a life skill we all need, not only while at school but when we leave education and enter adulthood as well.



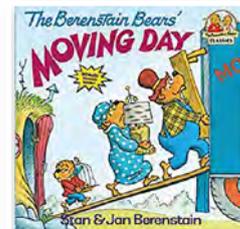
***The Kid in the Red Jacket* by Barbara Park:** Ten-year-old Howard Jeeter's life is temporarily destroyed by a cross-country move and to make things worse, his first 'friend' in Massachusetts is his seemingly annoying neighbour, Molly. Early adolescence is a difficult time for most children and this book communicates this time really well. It's a very relatable story.



***Red Butterfly* by A.L. Sonnichsen:** Written in verse with black and white illustrations by Amy June Bates, a young orphaned Chinese girl learns about the true meaning of family. Working in an international school I know how important it is for children to feel represented and this book does a really great job of showing this.



**The Berenstain Bears' Moving Day** by Stan and Jan Berenstain: A story about the Bear family's move to their now-famous tree house in Bear Country. Would Brother Bear like it? Would he find new friends? He wasn't sure until he got there. This book helps to introduce the idea of moving to a new house and all the important changes that go with it.



**Bella and Stella Come Home** by Anika Denise and Christopher Denise: A picture book that is great for pre-schoolers and young children. Bella, a young girl, faces a wide range of reactions and emotions as she moves to a new house and it is not what she expected. Once Bella starts making friends though, her feelings about her new home change and she begins to feel happier. This book provides a positive message for any child worried that they will not enjoy their new home.



**Moving Day – a child's play book** illustrated by Jess Stockham: Another well represented book about an African-American boy whose involvement with his house move helps him come to terms with the transition. Helping with real tasks is a natural progression from pretend play and a crucial stage in a child's development.



**Here I am** by Patti Kim, pictures by Sonia Sanchez: Moving to a new country can be a really confusing time for children, and this book brilliantly depicts the emotions a child in this position might be going through. Newly arrived from their faraway homeland, a boy and his family enter into the lights, noise and traffic of a busy American city in this wordless picture book. This book sends a really positive message to international children about acceptance.



**B at Home: Emma moves again** by Valerie Besanceney: For any children (ages 10+) who have moved a number of times, I couldn't recommend this book highly enough. It shares an important message that home moves with you wherever you go and sheds a light on what it is like to be a third-culture child by sharing concepts that children who grow up globally can relate to.



**Ellie McDoodle: New Kid in School** by Ruth McNally Barshaw: Told through notebook entries and illustrations, Ruth McNally captures the real experience of moving to a new school really well, such as teachers mispronouncing the character's name. But Ellie's spirit and the tone of the book is encouraging and will definitely help children who find themselves in similar situations.



#### Pack memories in a scrapbook and take them with you

As well as reading books, why not try making one too? Children unsure about making new friends or settling into a new environment could create a scrapbook of their memories ahead of their move. This will provide some reassurance ahead of the move and be an on-going comfort to remind them of their friends. When I was a child, I did the same thing and being able to look back at pictures and notes written by friends really helped me. Happy reading!

**Anastasia Cotton** is ACS International Schools' Assistant Dean of Overseas Admissions. To find out more about ACS International Schools, or to register for an open morning visit [www.acs-schools.com/opensdays](http://www.acs-schools.com/opensdays). All our schools have state-of-the-art facilities with impressive grounds and an on-going programme of investment including a new boarding house at Cobham, a science centre at Hillingdon, and a new 2,400+ student campus in Doha, opening this year. Twitter: @ACSIntSchools @ACSCobhamSchool @ACSEgham @ACSHillSchool