

Steven's Baseball Mitt

A Book About Being Adopted

by Kathy Stinson

illustrated by Robin Baird-Lewis

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Steven's Baseball Mitt is a little gem. Kathy Stinson, author of *Red Is Best*, gets right to the heart of Steven's sense of loss and explores the various concerns and feelings he has regarding his adoption.

Stephen worries about hurting his parents by wanting to find out more about his roots. Stinson's handling of these feelings shows real insight. Most adoptees want to observe their birth parents, but have no real desire for a permanent reunion.

In his search for his own identity, Stephen fantasizes about his birth-mother and wonders what she looks like and if she is rich and famous. Maybe it was his fault that she "gave him up," or maybe there was a terrible mistake? His adoptive parents' explanations comfort him and make him realize that he is very special and very loved.

Reconciliation occurs as the youngster locates his baseball mitt and joins his family for a game. (It took me a second reading, however, to work out the "baseball mitt" connection.)

The appealing crayon drawings by Robin Baird Lewis depict the family as "real" people and add greatly to the story.

Steven's Baseball Mitt is a "must" read and a great discussion vehicle for anyone wanting to understand the feelings surrounding adoption.

Is there a case to be made here towards more "open" adoptions?

-Reviewed by Marilyn J. Rush, director of Willoughby's Academy and mother of two.