

## DBP Book Review

<b>Name of Book:</b> A Terrible Thing Happened	<b>Author:</b> Holmes, Margaret M.
<b>Publisher:</b> Magination Press	<b>Date of Publication:</b> 2000
<b>Name of Reviewer:</b> Virginia Pierce	<b>Date of Review:</b> October 2006
<b>Intended Audience</b> (choose from Parents, Children, Professional, Other): Children (ages 4-8)	
<b>Purpose of the book:</b> This book serves to encourage children who have witnessed violence or trauma to share their thoughts and feelings with caring adults. It recounts the story of a young raccoon who becomes frightened by seeing "the most terrible thing". He initially copes by avoiding thoughts of the event, but then begins to experience a number of symptoms related to the trauma, including appetite loss, stomachaches, sadness, anxiety, disrupted sleep, irritability, increased aggressiveness, and angry outbursts. Ultimately, he is helped by sharing his concerns and emotions with a caring adult through therapeutic discussion and play.	
<b>Theoretical Basis:</b> The story recognizes that the developmental characteristics of children in the target age group impact how they respond to traumatic events; for example, children may have strict ideas about "good" and "bad" and may engage in magical thinking, such that they may experience a traumatic event as a punishment for personal "bad" behaviors, thoughts, or feelings.	
<b>Strengths:</b> The story is told gently and in straightforward language. There is an afterword for caregivers offering suggestions for helping traumatized children and a bibliography of resources that focus on specific events.	
<b>Weaknesses:</b> No specific weaknesses identified	
<b>Recommendation of Reviewer</b> (please choose one and put "X" in box next to selection):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommend for all parents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommend for parents with specific problems/issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	May be useful to some parents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Would not recommend
<b>Additional Comments:</b> NONE	