

## ***A Safe Place – Reading Guide***

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Themes: security, trauma, abuse, interdependence, growth

Lesson/Notes: Not recommended for all children. Tells the story of child and mother survivors of abuse finding healing and hope in a shelter/group home. Mentions father's physical aggression toward mother. Preview this book to ensure it is appropriate for the child.

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### **Discussion Questions**

- *Were Emily and Mama safe at home with Daddy? (No)*
- *How did Emily and Mama feel at the big white house on the hill?*
- *Is hitting an okay way to solve problems? How did Jane say to resolve conflicts? (No. Talk it over.)*
- *What helped Emily feel better? (Teddy, painting, talking with Jane, planting tulip bulbs, asking Mama questions, calling Daddy)*
- *Do you think the big white house on the hill will help the little boy feel better?*

### **Activity: Paint**

Supplies: paint, paintbrush, paper, water

- Emily felt better when she painted and talked with Jane. Encourage child to paint whatever (s)he chooses. Child may like to listen to relaxing instrumental music while painting.