

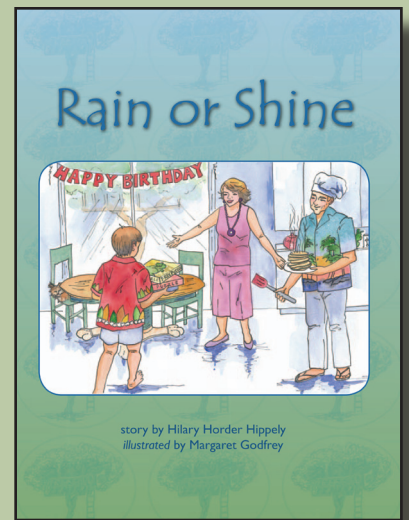
# Rain or Shine

written by adoptive mom Hilary Horder Hippely  
illustrated by former OA&FS counselor Margaret Godfrey

AVAILABLE AT [WWW.OPENADOPT.ORG](http://WWW.OPENADOPT.ORG)

Finn has a happy life with his mother and father. Every summer he looks forward to the birthday celebration that will reunite him with his rich extended family, particularly his birthmother, Lisa. But when clouds threaten, Finn wonders how his much-loved birthday traditions can continue.

With love and honesty, *Rain or Shine* celebrates the possibilities of life, love, and family.



“Rain or Shine is a long overdue, well written and beautifully illustrated children’s book. The story is a realistic reflection of a child growing up in an open adoption; the illustrations and language demonstrate the actual emotions of the participants. I love that it takes place after several years of this child’s life in open adoption which offers some true history as to how these relationships unfold. This book is a must have...!”

**Sharon Roszia, M.S.**

**Kinship Center®, California and Co-Author of The Open Adoption Experience**

“Rain or Shine is a lovely children’s book that I have just started reading to my school aged adoptees and their families, as a way to open the topic of extended families, in a non-threatening way. I especially like the way Rain or Shine normalizes the gaps in contact that often occur in open-adoptions. The simple, yet powerful page at the end of the book highlighting child-centered adoptions completes the message. Rain or Shine illustrates open-heartedness in open adoption.”

**Leslie Foge, MA, MFT**

**Co-Author of The Third Choice: A Woman’s Guide to Placing a Child for Adoption**

“It is refreshing to finally have a book that honors the emotions and relationships beyond the adoptive family. Thank you OA&FS for this amazing resource!”

**Astrid Dabbeni**

**Executive Director of Adoption Mosaic**

“...Rain or Shine tells the story of Finn, a young boy in an open adoption who looks forward to gathering with his extended family to celebrate his eighth birthday. The plotline focuses on how the family will salvage the party if it rains on the big day, but the real strength of the book lies in its depiction of a healthy open adoption.

There were several nice touches:

- Finn does not make sharp distinctions between his adoptive family and his birth family. The two are integrated together into a single extended family for him.
- Finn’s grandmother on his birth mom’s side is an active participant in his life, reflecting the many open adoptions which involve multiple generations.
- Both Finn’s adoptive parents and his birth mom talk appreciatively and affectionately about one another. They acknowledge and affirm both the nature and nurture portions of Finn’s identity, pointing out traits that come from each side of his family tree.
- Finn enjoys spending time alone with his birth mom and feels comfortable enough with her to tell her about his secret thumb-sucking, something he’s previously only shared with his parents.
- It’s mentioned that Finn’s birth mom did not attend his seventh party because she was having “a hard time” that year. Finn also expresses a desire to have contact with his birth dad, who the family hasn’t seen since Finn was an infant. I appreciated the subtle acknowledgment that open adoptions can be positive and fulfilling despite not being “perfect.” These also create openings for parents (birth or adoptive) to talk with their children about adoption-related disappointments.

The simple story and fun details will engage young readers. Sensitive and well-written, Rain or Shine is a welcome addition to the small but growing list of children’s books about open adoption.”

**Heather**

**Adoptive Mother and writer for [openadoptionssupport.com](http://openadoptionssupport.com)**