

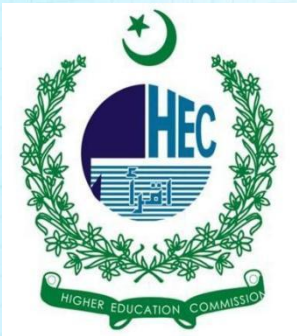
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Tween's Resilience in the Face of Parental Divorce in *Big and Little Questions* (According to Wren Joe Byrd)



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Abstract

This study investigates how contemporary American novel, *Big and Little Questions* (According to Wren Jo Byrd) (2017) represents the impact of parental divorce on the female tween's resilience. The text is analyzed through Belsey's qualitative and interpretive textual-critical lens and guided by Ungar's socio-ecological theory of resilience. The study examines the divorce induced adversity, gaps, silences and binary oppositions and how the tween negotiates her relevant cultural resources to fill the gaps and silences and dismantle the binary oppositions to achieve resilience. This analysis reveals that the gaps and silences reveal unspoken cultural pressures and constrained resources which the tween fills culturally relevantly through self-reliance, metacognition, secrecy, confessions of parental divorce, relational validation of pain and her acceptance of two home reality. Likewise, she resolves the adversity of conflicting hierarchies through restructuring her concept of family and big and little things, fibbing, alienation, accepting divorce, externalizing her trauma through culturally relevant resources of diary and dictionary, and acknowledging parental, peer, and communal anchor. The study concludes that tween's literature holds significant potential for illuminating the socio-ecological dimensions of resilience.

Keywords: Parental Divorce, tween's adversity, Social-Ecology, Tween's Resilience, cultural relevant resources, Middle Grade Fiction

Introduction

Changing gender roles, evolving concept about matrimonial contract, feminist movement, increasing focus on individualism, demand for equal rights, promising independence from unhappy marriages, belief in emotional bonds and financial independence for women has raised divorce rate to almost one million women (1,042,174) in 2019. According to data from the National Center for Health Statistics (2021), the divorce rate in the United States was 14.0 divorces per 1,000 married women (Mareno & Juteau, 2022)

These high divorce rates negatively affect nearly 1.1–1.2 million American children per year (Smock & Schwartz, 2020). A child's tender age, lack of experience, instable emotions, and parental dependency make them more vulnerable, with 60%

higher chances of stroke, high blood pressure, insomnia, and financial issues later in life (Schilke et al. 2025). Moving out of either parent leaves kids both emotionally hurt and financially stressed” (Lee and Bax, 2000). Such children are often described “as anxious, depressed, burdened, failing to reach their potential, and fearful of commitment and failure (Fabricius, 2003). Moreover, parental divorce yields a higher rate of mental, health and academic challenges with “disruptive behaviors and depressed mood” (D’Onofrio & Emery, 2019). Likewise, negative effects of divorce encompass emotional distress, financial instability, shifts in family dynamics and diminished learning capacity (Amato, 2000).

Various strategies including hopefulness about future security and stability, positive outcomes, parental affection, emotional support and flexibility, reassurance of exemption from having a share in parental divorce, and involvement of mediating agents are effective in mitigating divorce induced pain (Lee & Bax, 2000). Moreover, cordial interparental relationship, a parent’s emotional support and a child’s age facilitate children to achieve resilience.

Resilience is an ordinary magic of adaptation against adversity (Aburn, Gott & Hoare , 2016); adaptation to changing circumstances with the help of disposition, family and external support systems (Germazy, 1991); an ordinary process of adaptation with relational and social resources (Rutter, 1985); “struggling well” (Walsh, 2016); and the capacity to cope effectively with internal and external vulnerabilities (Werner, 1982) with the help of moderating agents (Masten, 2018). Likewise, Luther (2019) considers culture to play significant role in resilience as both risk and protective factors vary across cultures.

This study explores the issue of a tween, Wren’s resilience in the face of parental divorce in *Big and Little Questions (According to Wren Jo Byrd)* (2017) by Julie Bowe. Due to lack of experience and tender age, the tween’s coping with divorce trauma becomes an uphill task, necessitating the exploration of her coping of her trauma.

The tween in *Big & Little Questions (According to Wren Jo Byrd)* (2017), is a ten-year-old daughter of middle-class divorced parents. Fearing social stigma and peer abandonment, the tween undergoes self-imposed alienation. Divorce trauma shatters her sense of security, parental love and peer trust which she overcomes

slowly and gradually with relational anchor and acknowledgement that all her friends have their secrets and big and little questions.

The present study endeavors to explore the issue of a tween, Wren's resilience in *Big and Little Questions (According to Wren Jo Byrd)* (2017). Inclination of American society towards increasing divorce rate makes this study significant from social, research and psychological point of view. Moreover, this study reframes the coping strategies and attitude of children towards problems of parental divorce in life (Smock & Schwartz, 2020).

The study will be delimited to the character of female tween. As girls internalize adversity of family transition due to their increased sensitivity, this study is an effort to explore Wren's reaction to divorce induced adversity. According to Ungar (2011), children can bounce back divorce induced adversity through mediating agents and resources. The study endeavors to explore issues pertaining to divorce and its impact on female tween protagonists. Moreover, it provides insights into the nature of adversities children confront in the face of parental divorce, hence contributes to a deeper understanding of the experiences of children in American society.

This study addresses the following questions:

- 1: What is the nature of adversity the tween experiences in the face of parental divorce in the given novel.?
- 2: What textual gaps and silences reveal systemic failure, constrained resource negotiation and hidden pathways for the tween's resilience?
- 3: How does the tween negotiate and resolve binary oppositions through culturally relevant resources?

Literature Review

Literature for children reflects broader cultural attitudes of American society towards divorce. Literary works not only give valuable insights into the social and psychological dynamics of divorce but also reflect the challenges and prospects it presents for individuals and communities.

Children from divorced parents exhibit a range of serious behavioral and emotional problems (Popenoe & Whitehead, 2002). They are anxious, depressed, burdened, fearful of commitment and failure, and prone to behavioral, psychological and academic challenges (Fabricius, 2003). They exhibit aggression, criminal

inclination, anxiety, depression, decline in educational outcomes and decreased father-child bonding. Moreover, these children experience short term painful memories (Kelly and Emery, 2003); dejection, fear, grief, aggression, disobedience and poor academic performance. In the long-term they experience severe depression, anxiety, poor educational performance and weaker bonding with the non-custodian parent (Hopper 1997). Younger kids develop disrupted eating or sleeping habits, while teens face issues of self-esteem (Vincet, 2020). Likewise, parental conflict, financial problems and custody arrangement worsen divorce adversity. Moreover, parental failure to discuss divorce issue explicitly with children increases their emotional, behavioral, academic problems, and coping mechanism. (Kelly and Emery, 2003).

Related to gender role, the studies of Page and Bretherton (2001), and Ghaffarzadeh, & Nazari (2012), Vincet (2020) and Lairana & Wandamar (2023) find that girls internalize distress while boys externalize behaviors of aggression and defiance in post-divorce situations. Boys become disobedient and aggressive while girls become reserved and withdrawn. In the long term, minority of children experience prolonged issues of internalizing (e.g., anxiety, depression) and externalizing (e.g., aggression, noncompliance) problems.

Researches also study post-divorce adaptation of children. Most children adapt to new family structures within two years (Hopper, 1997); with the help of parental support, love, care and financial stability (Lansford, 2009). Parents discipline, consistency, negotiated schedules for food, recreation, academics, open communication, connection with non-custodian parent, parental empathy (Musaja, 2020); disciplined habits, cooperative co-parenting, love, stability, and deliberate backing from both parents can mitigate the pain (Vincet, 2020). While strong parent-child bond is helpful in yielding positive effects (Kelly and Emery (2003). A child's attachment with custodian parent, peer, trusted adults, engagement in religion and extracurricular activities can mitigate emotional adversities. Similarly, cultural factors associated with divorce as a stigma also affect coping strategies of adolescents while interventions at health, school and cultural level can play significant role to cope with post-divorce emotional distress (Lairana & Wandamar, 2023).

Contrary to these, Amato & Cheadle (2005) support the view that children of divorced

parents adjust emotionally and feel a “sense of liberation and increased autonomy”. They overcome the adversity, “reevaluate their lives and make positive changes” with the help of autonomy, competence and relatedness” (Kelly, Emery, 2004). Autonomy involves altering the environment “with volition and a sense of choice (Deci & Ryan, 2008). Competence is the ability to function effectively, “self-efficacy” while “relatedness”, is maintaining connections (Eggen & Kauchak, 2007).

The literature review depicts that girls are more sensitive to divorce and internalize divorce trauma, hence, the present study addresses the issue of the female tween’s resilience in the face of parental divorce in *Big and Little Questions* (2017). It aims at highlighting divorce induced adversities and coping strategies, contributing valuable insights into the study of children, younger girls. The study is significant from psychological and social perspective as it provides valuable input about reaction and coping of female and role of social-ecology in her coping.

Research Methodology

The present study is qualitative in nature. It gathers non-numerical data through observation. It is concerned with meaning making through linguistic study of given novel by focusing on textual features through the lens of Ungar's socio-ecological theory (2013). This theory is based on an interplay between individual agency and broader environmental resources; role of peers, schools, or cultural contexts as a coping mechanism. It focuses on navigation and negotiation of resources. Ungar addresses the gaps left by other theorists (Shaikh and Kauppi, 2010) and considers individual, environmental, physical ecology, social ecological and cultural relevance significant for resilience (Shean, 2015, p. 42). It identifies the tween’s adversities and coping mechanism with resources.

Passages and excerpts from the text related to the tween’s struggle against adversity will be quoted and textually analyzed. Textual analysis will be carried out in the backdrop of sociocultural context of American society. The research is interpretive, contextual, and is concerned with close reading of the given novel. It highlights gaps and silences responsible for her adversity, binary oppositions posing challenge for her coping.

Analysis of Textual Excerpts

1) “Mom and Dad ... were getting a divorce...”. They reassure, “everything will be

ok" (p.02)

"...Dad moved out... Now big things...seem little" (p.01)

"And little things—like family photos disappearing...and not hearing Dad's truck pull into the driveway".... seem big" (p.02)

"But nothing was okay. I'm part of this family too. I should get a say in the big stuff" ...(p.03)

"Dad's desk was gone. So was his recliner. There were gaps on our bookshelf, like missing teeth" (p.06)

Mom's house. I mean, my house. I mean, I don't know what I mean". (p.02)

"Is two enough for a family"

... "I had to go stay with my grandparents ... I missed Amber's birthday. And swimming lessons. And fireworks ... And Bartlett's ... cookout ... reading party at the library" (p.04)

... "How can I tell my friends... my mom and dad are getting divorced? (p.05)

Parental divorce shatters the tween's micro system by disintegrating her familial unity and memories, un-homing of her home and displacing her and dad. Moreover, Lack of parental communication and tween's input about divorce amplifies her apprehension, "nothing was okay".

Systemic Exclusions and Relational Failures

The potent gaps surrounding valid reason for divorce and parent's communication deprive the tween from relevant explanation of her trauma. Her parents' failure to share divorce pain with her alienates her. Kelly and Emery (2003) are of view that parental failure to discuss divorce issue explicitly with children increases their emotional, behavioral, academic problems, and coping mechanism. Another factor is the fear of divorce stigma that forces her withdrawal from peer interactions, a culturally relevant form of socialization. Lairana & Wandamar (2023) endorse that cultural factors associated with divorce as a stigma affect coping strategies of adolescents while interventions at cultural level can play significant role to cope with post-divorce emotional distress. Apart from these factors the unexpressed hanging pain of dad's moving out and silent removal of his remembrances makes her internalize divorce trauma.

The Tween's Destabilized World

The text reflects the tween's overturned micro system through the binary of "big" and "little". Following divorce, her previous little things; familial unity and shared parental love become big while her food choices become little things. Similarly, absence of dad and his belongings become big loss, a binary conflicting with presence of empty spaces in a book shelf. Kelly and Emery (2023) also endorse that in divorce context children experience short term painful memories. Her mom's reassurance, "everything would be ok, conflicts with her consciousness "but nothing was okay" which depicts her internalization of divorce trauma.

Navigation of Agency

Due to lack of relational resources, she fails to cope with her adversity. But she consciously figures her big and little things and becomes critical of, "nothing was okay", challenging her ruptured ecosystem, "Is two even enough for a family?" She asserts her agency, "I should get a say as "I'm part of this family too" and protects herself from peer interrogation by intentionally avoiding her culturally relevant channels for peer connections.

2) *"MONDAY–THURSDAY: MEET MOM AT THE LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL".*

"FRIDAY: RIDE BUS 5 TO YOUR DAD'S PLACE".

"SATRDAY–SUNDAY: STAY WITH YOUR DAD".

"I ... turn the smiley face magnet upside down".

... "my house,...sometimes feels crowded even though only three people live here. I mean, two people now. Is two even enough for a family?" (p.06)

" And there's no real family here anymore anyway. It's just me". (p.08)

Today mom is in charge. "Maybe it's against the rules for Dad to see me?... I don't care about the rules, and I want him to come" ... (p.16)

The tween's little familial world is destabilized and reduced from three to two, creating emotional, physical and communication void in her surroundings.

Unresolved Gaps and Explanations

Textual gaps; absence of non-custodian parent, exclusion of her perspective from custody arrangements, missing narrative surrounding cause of parental divorce and her unvalidated emotions exacerbate her instability. She fails to restructure her schedule and reframe her family definition and belonging.

Adversity of Custody Arrangements

The dichotomy of stability versus chaotic custody schedules disconnects the tween from her relational resources. Kelly and Emery (2003), also endorse that strict custody arrangement of children worsen divorce adversity. Her emotionally devoid parents' conflict with her past familial and emotional connections. Similarly, the cheerful smiley face magnet contrasts with her turning it upside down, reflecting her challenge to unjust impositions. Parental divorce reduces her past familial wholeness from "three people", to "two people" reflecting her ruptured status.

Negotiation of Autonomy and Pathway to Resilience

The tween asserts her agency, inverts the imposed smile face magnet, challenges new family status, "Is two even enough for a family?" and reanalysis her surroundings, "not like my house". Yet her lack of experience and fear of divorce stigma restrict her access to resources for recovery; mom, grandparents, Aunt Claire, peer support, swimming lessons, library parties, and fireworks. Amidst uncontrollable adversity, her resilience becomes a matter of individual burden necessitating the need of ecosystem equipped with culturally attuned relational, and environmental support system.

3) *"I was hoping to spend my last day of summer vacation with Amber, Phoebe, and Eleanor, but now that they believe nothing weird is going on with my family, I don't want to mess things up. If I ask them to meet me at the library, Mom might say something to give away my secret. If I bike to the park with them, or we meet up at Large Marge's for ice cream, they might ask more questions that are hard to answer. Then I'll have to think up more lies. It's better to hang out alone". (p.35)*

Mariana tells about her parents' remarriage and then asks Wren,

"Are your parents still married?" I stiffen. "Mmmhmm," I say, which feels like a smaller lie than Yes". (p.41)

The tween's self-imposed burden of keeping her parental divorce a secret due to fear of social stigma makes her withdraw herself from peer connections. Her resource system fails to facilitate her culturally relevant peer connection and disclosure strategy.

The Unspoken Trauma

The tween's experience of systemic failure is reflected through textual omissions.

Parental divorce restricts her access to mediating agents. Her communication gap at familial and institutional level induces fear of social stigma. It deprives her from culturally congruent means of disclosing divorce, plunging her into social alienation and solitary coping mechanisms.

The Paradox of Safety in Solitude

The potent textual binaries reflect the tween's negotiation of risky resilience strategies. The binary of secrecy for safety from peer interrogation and social stigma starkly contrasts the possibility of honest catastrophic disclosure. As a result, she strategically alienates herself against connection to culturally relevant but endangered peer and mediating spaces, "Large Marge's ice cream shop and park. In an ecosystem devoid of safety and connection tools, she demonstrates agency and opts for strategic alienation and "hmmmm" as a smaller lie than yes".

Safety in Isolation

The tween lacks access to culturally relevant resources of resilience, "library", "park", and "Large Marge", due to possible risk of parental intrusion and peer interrogation. Her fear of peer interaction interrupts her bike ride.

Amidst uncontrollable adversity, she protects herself and maintains her performative conformity by opting for "it's better to hang out alone" her paradox of safety in isolation. Moreover, she "think up more lies", upholding the facade of "nothing weird", protecting herself against risky exposure. As a survival tactic she adopts for strategic isolation against blocked channels of resilience.

4) *My ...koala bear shirt," ... is my favorite, but I was wearing it on the day you told me about the divorce. I've tried to wear it since then, but it doesn't feel right" ...*

"Mom pulls me into her arms. Now she's using my shoulder for a tissue, but I don't mind". "I don't want us to be divorced, Mom. I miss Dad all week, and I miss you all weekend" (p.194)

The text encapsulates the tween's emotional labor and mom's divorce induced grief, highlighting systemic failures in scaffolding children safety. Mom's emotional fallout creates environmental adversity and interrupts the tween's coping.

Lack of Maternal Support

The tween's suppressed emotions conflict with mom's emotional fallouts. The

interaction reconciles mother daughter relationship through expression of shared grief, facilitating her coping. Similarly, the tween's past memories of koala bear shirt contradict her present fragmented reality. Finally, the tween's caregiving role contradicts her mom's behavior as cared-for, threatening her emotional regulations, overburdening her with parental responsibilities.

Relational and Emotional Adversity

Textual gaps mirror the tween's adversity arising from overflow of maternal emotions and mother-daughter communication gap. These gaps induce premature autonomy and emotional intelligence in the tween, overstraining her with adult duty.

Negotiation of Autonomy and Relational Support

The tween demonstrates premature autonomy through inverted roles. She manages maternal emotional fallouts and longs for familial unity. Mother-daughter tearful relational reconciliation and recognition over the koala bear shirt paves way for the tweens symbolic resilience by associating objects with emotional histories. It reveals that divorce disrupts traditional hierarchies of caregiving roles by making parents and children emotionally equal in grief.

5) *"I wouldn't miss your big day for the world."... "We're two peas in a pod." Ha says.
(p.18)*

Dad says "Amber had a sleepover and you didn't go? You're going to have to tell me when there's stuff going on, Wren. Your mom used to take care of that sort of thing.

It's up to you now, to keep me in the loop" "...next time, let me know." (p.135)

"Amber, Phoebe, Eleanor, Ruby, and Marianna! Everyone wants to see my cabin.

We're going to build a pretend stable for our invisible horses down by the lake.

"Let me know if you need any help," Dad puts in. "I specialize in pretend stables and aristocratic castles"

You "could have it (sleepover) at my place next Friday night," Dad offers.

"It's not just your place now, it's mine too" (p.225)

She called him Dad this time, not your dad. It probably seems like a little thing, but it's a big deal to me.

*"Could we have the sleepover at our house?" I ask Mom. ... "Fine by me," Mom says.
(p.226)*

"Even though I don't want to live in two places, maybe it doesn't have to be a bad

thing". (p.222)

The text encapsulates the tween's challenging phase in life and her negotiation of parental support. She navigates her connection and liabilities and accepts changing family dynamics.

Shifting Relational Support

Textual binary oppositions reflect the tween's assertion of agency, negotiation of autonomy and experience shifting parental role. Dad charges her with parental roles, "It's up to you now". Parental interaction actively navigates and resolves the conflict of Mom's house versus Dad's cabin. Likewise, mom and dad agree to co-parent; Dad offers "I specialize in pretend stables," and Mom makes linguistic shift from "your dad" to "Dad." This maternal shift is apparently a little thing, but makes huge difference in mitigating aggravated pain and creating potential hope for future. Together, these binary oppositions create optimism for future supportive co-parenting.

Negotiation of Parental Support

Parental support addresses the gap for tween's need for relational empathy, ensures open communication, and contributes to the tween's resilience journey. While the tween's uncertainty "I didn't think you'd come!" reflects father-daughter severed unreliability in fragmented family system.

Negotiation of Autonomy and Culturally Relevant Relational Anchor

The tween asserts agency and navigates fathers' support and his potential unreliability. She prioritizes her psychological connection and contemplates for the location and structure of the sleepover. Dad provides stable relational scaffolding through his participation and tangible acts of care, and collaboration with mom. Similarly, mom validates the tween's need for unified co-parenting, provides symbolic linguistic recognition of "Dad," not "your dad", facilitates her sleepovers and imaginative group play. Moreover, she endorses her activities, ensuring her stability and belonging, providing a sense of normalcy within the restructured family system.

6) ... *"Amber, there are things I haven't told you" Big things."*

"Marianna". "Go ahead, Tweety. We're listening." (p.215)

"I grip the pineapple eraser in my hand. I thought it would make me feel braver, ...

"...my parents are getting a divorce. That's why I had to go away"

"Oh no!" Amber exclaims. "I can't believe it!"

Marianna ... " nods, like it all makes sense"

"Amber crosses her arms. "It doesn't seem that complicated to me" (p.216)

I'm so sorry, Amber."

"Marianna squeezes my arm". "It's okay, Tweety," she says.

"I hold out the pineapple eraser to Amber". "I'm really sorry," I tell her again.

Amber shifts. Then she says, "Wren, I gave you that pineapple eraser." (p.217)

"... I'm So. Glad. We're still friends!"

"Amber takes my hand and squeezes it super tight". (p.218)

"We find Phoebe and Eleanor... and Marianna tells them the truth about her house and her mom. Then I tell them the truth about the divorce".(p.219)

"Eleanor says. "That's such a bummer, Wren. My aunt and uncle got ... A divorce"

Phoebe nods. "So did my mom's friend".

"Marianna says. "We can build a pretend stable ... and a whole castle" (p.220)

"I hear a snort laugh".... (p.221)

At ... "Dad's place ... I take the pineapple eraser" ... "set it next to the orca and unicorn". (p.222)

The excerpt encapsulates the tween's pivotal moment of authentic sharing, confession and validation of her divorced trauma. The text presents her resilience journey as a socially constructed and symbolic process of peer reintegration.

Peer Support

The excerpt dismantles the tween's cognitively constructed divorce stigma and self-imposed fear of peer abandonment. Through truth telling, she claims for peer connection and dismantles her adversity of secrecy. Similarly, peer acceptance dismantles her fear of rejection. Crucially, the disruption also dismantles her adversity of big things, divorce trauma and small things, fear of ordinary peer interaction. Through confession, "my parents are getting a divorce" she counters Marianna's confession, "me hate liars" and her peers validate her trauma of two homes reality. The peer's understanding and its relevancy to Wren's trauma dissolve the systemic silence responsible for her concealment. This also represents a culturally congruent pathway that reframes divorce not as a socially stigmatized act but a shared, manageable reality within their peer ecology.

Shared Revelation and Peer Reconciliation

Through confessions and revelations, the tween fills textual gaps of secrecy and fear of stigma. Marianna's gestures "squeezes my arm," and "nods" address the silence surrounding fear of peer judgment, while Amber's symbolic gift of pineapple eraser fills the gaps of tween's fear of lack of peer validation. Moreover, the tween's fear of divorce stigma is addressed by her peers', Marianna, Phoebe and Eleanor's expression of shared divorce experience and mutual recognition. Lastly, the parental absence and peers "snort laugh" reflects Wren's unending ecological complexity in post-divorce situation.

Negotiation of Autonomy and Culturally Attuned Resilience

The tween's resilience journey culminates when she confesses her ruptured reality, seeks peer forgiveness, achieves culturally relevant peer validation and reintegration. She weaves the truth of her parental divorce, her "big things", into the fabric of shared canvas of her peers, reflected through placing pineapple erasure among her valuable possessions. Her new house, her dad's cabin transforms from adverse "shaking" site into an integrated wholeness, capable of holding orca and pineapple.

Discussion

Structural Adversity

The tween experiences structural and environmental adversity due to lack of emotional, relational and legal scaffolding. Parental divorce fractures her primary microsystem, making tangible alterations to her social ecology. It denies her parental warmth, dislocates her from home, disrupts her routines, imposes parental decisions, reduces her people from three to two, imposes rigid custody arrangements, excludes her from parental communications and decision about divorce, and fails to provide her validating and reassuring narrative of divorce. Her perceived fear of social stigma of divorce deprives her from peer connection and make her fabricate normalcy of familial façade. Moreover, the systemic failures prioritize custody resolutions, mechanize parental love and pathologize her psychological needs. Collectively, her destabilized microsystem fails to provide care and re-establish blocked kinship ties.

Addressing Binary Oppositions to Achieve Resilience

The tween compartmentalizes and reframes her big and little things, regulating her emotions; "big things" refer to divorce and new abodes, while "little things" are her

pastime activities. She resolves her adversity of fabricated narrative with honest disclosure, "my parents are getting divorce". Similarly, she resolves the binary of parental absence through acknowledging her non-traditional family structure as a part of lived reality, parents with their children, "whether dwelling together or not". As an adaptive strategy for survival and protection she isolates herself from connections. Likewise, by accepting "I don't have one house anymore. I have two now", she resolves the binary of normalcy of one house. Mom's and Dad's future agreement to coparent create potential hope for future relational anchor. Lansford (2009), is of view that with the help of parental support, love, care, connection with non-custodian parent, parental empathy (Musaja, 2020) and cooperative co-parenting children can overcome the pain (Vincet, 2020). Moreover, the strong bonding between parent- and child can yield positive effects (Kelly and Emery (2003). Lastly, through culturally relevant communal support the tween, Wren symbolically transforms her isolation and vulnerability and replaces her fear of peer rejection by peer acceptance.

Hidden Pathways to Resilience Amidst Gaps and Silences

The tween asserts her agency and negotiates her autonomy amidst lack of relational resources in her ecosystem. She intellectualizes her turmoil and addresses the lack of relational support and communication gap through impersonal authority of dictionary. Likewise, she externalizes her internal trauma through diary writing. She relies on her pet's nonverbal response "Mew" as a sole relational resource and addresses lack of peer communication and abandonment through honest confession and negotiation of peer solidarity. She addresses parental absence through managing "living in two places". Moreover, Marianna, Phoebe and Eleanor validate her divorce pain through expression of shared divorce trauma. Her peers promise unending support and upcoming ecological complexity through "a snort laugh". Collectively, the tween engages with her lived reality, fills relational gaps, adapts strategies and regulate her emotions in order to achieve resilience.

Conclusion

The first question is concerned with the nature of tween's adversity following parental divorce. Divorce, fear of divorce stigma and parental absence ruptures her primary microsystem, displaces her, disrupts her routines and invalidates her pain. Moreover, lack of normalized language and elder's guidance on divorce disclosure strategy,

imposed custody schedule, absence of relational care and community resources hinder her access to culturally relevant tools of safety and connections.

In the context of constrained resources, textual gaps surround unjustified reason for divorce, parental invalidation of the tween's pain, and absence of relevant knowledge and availability of language about divorce. The tween's covert pathways for resilience include culturally relevant resource of self-reliance and reliance on dictionary and diary resources, secret keeping, confessions of parental divorce, parental and peer validation of divorce trauma, pet's support and the tween's validation of her two homes reality.

The third question is concerned with the tween's dismantling of binary oppositions. The tween resolves her destabilized world through restructuring her concept of family and big and little things, lying, secrecy keeping, self-isolation, accepting the reality of divorce, externalizing her divorce trauma through culturally relevant resources of diary and dictionary. It also involves her acknowledgement of culturally attuned parental, peer, and communal support as well as parental validation of her trauma.

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