

Ten Reasons Why Fathers Cry at Night

From *Why Fathers Cry at Night*

By Kwame Alexander

1. Because teenagers don't like park swings or long walks anymore unless you're in the mall.
2. Because holding her hand is forbidden and kisses are lethal.
3. Because school was "fine," her day was "fine," and yes, she's "fine." (So why is she weeping?)
4. Because you want to help, but you can't read minds.
5. Because she is in love and that's cute, until you find his note asking her to prove it.
6. Because she didn't prove it.
7. Because next week she is in love again and this time it's real, she says her heart is heavy.
8. Because she yearns to take long walks in the park with him.
9. Because you remember the myriad woes and wonders of spring desire.
10. Because with trepidation and thrill you watch your daughter who suddenly wants to swing all by herself.