

# MAKING CONNECTIONS...

## Missing Daddy By: Mariame Kaba

As caretakers of young people, making connections and continuing the conversation is helpful to developing critical thinking skills and extending compassion. This includes helping us broaden our understanding of how issues of immigration, race, incarceration, gender, and more are linked to sexual violence. This connection is crucial when thinking about how to keep our communities safer and work towards a future free from harm.

The book, "Missing Daddy" illustrates a reality of many children as one little girl navigates missing her father who is currently incarcerated. Black and brown children are forced to bear the consequences of incarceration and the prison industrial complex. The United States incarcerates the most people per nation leading to an extremely dense prison population.

This includes 550,000 people who are in jail without conviction or sentencing due to the bail and money bond system which keeps family separate, leads to housing insecurity, job loss, and even higher sentencing.

What this also looks like is this little girl facing social stigma created around criminalization, her mother working longer hours to provide, and the lack of support for her father around his incarceration.


In the context of sexual violence, prisons and jails are huge sites of sexual violence given the power and control dynamic between prison guards and already vulnerable, stigmatized people that are incarcerated. Outside of prisons, the prison industrial complex upholds rape culture by building a message that violence is not only normal and will happen but that people in prisons are inherently bad and beyond repair. When people, including children, are exposed to prisons and policing, their likelihood of becoming victims of both police brutality and sexual violence increases greatly.



**RESILIENCE**  
EMPOWERING  
SURVIVORS  
ENDING SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE



# CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION...




1 When the classmates say the main character's father is a criminal and that makes her one too, what do they mean? What is a criminal?

Who tells you that you are in trouble or have hurt someone else? Does everyone have people like that?



2




3 When grandma said there are "many reasons" to daddy being in prison, what do you think she meant by that?

When you see other people call someone names or hurt their feelings, what can you do? What safe adults can you tell?



4



5 We are seeing a lot of people protesting against police. What is protesting? Why do people protest? Are police and prison connected?

