

## Berkshire Book Award 2021 – Longlist title

### The list of things that will not change by Rebecca Stead



*After her parents' divorce, Bea's life became different in many ways. But she can always look back at the list she keeps in her green notebook to remember the things that will stay the same.*

*The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other.*

*When Dad tells Bea that he and his boyfriend, Jesse, are getting married, Bea is thrilled. Bea loves Jesse, and when he and Dad get married, she'll finally (finally!) have what she's always wanted--a sister. Even though she's never met Jesse's daughter, Sonia, Bea is sure that they'll be just like sisters anywhere.*

*As the wedding day approaches, Bea will learn that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy.*

#### Questions for Book Groups

Do you think that Bea is quite grown up for a ten year old? Do you think you were as thoughtful and understanding as her when you were younger?

Do you have siblings or not? Either way, can you relate to how Bea feels about getting a 'new sister'?

Do you think it is unusual or quite normal for parents to be quite as accepting as Beas are (in particular her mother) about new relationships?

There are lots of descriptions of food in the book. Did you enjoy these? Have they inspired any new culinary skills?

The story is bittersweet in having both happy and sad outcomes. Are you optimistic about the future for Bea, Sonia and her family?

Do you find it a helpful strategy to make lists in life to help you to formulate your ideas and make plans?

