**“*A Child Called It”* by Dave Pelzer**

This book pulled at my heart strings. I cannot imagine the physical, emotional, and mental abuse this man overcame. The torture his mother put him through at such a young age is astonishing and frustrating at the same time. How could a mother treat her son this way? How did she pick him to be ‘the boy’? And why did she not treat her other sons in the same manner? A million questions I am sure he asked himself a million times with no response. His resiliency and strength to overcome is amazing. He is the perfect example of growing up out of such hardship and making his relationship with his son better. Too often people are products of their upbringing, but what they do not realize is that it is their choice to follow in the same path or blaze another one. They have the choice to make a life that is better for them.

This book has not only made me a better parent, but a better school counselor as well. The few people in his life that showed him compassion will forever be in his mind as those who helped him on his path to survival. I could be that person for someone. Reading about his victory over is past life is inspiring and moving and could give hope to a child who is experiencing child abuse.

To bring awareness to the hidden secrets of child abuse is essential if we are to prevent it. This book is a beginning step to raising that awareness. Using this book in the schools could be a great integrated lesson. To integrate the reading curriculum with the school counseling curriculum could be most beneficial for the students we serve. I would not only recommend this book to the students, but to teachers, staff, administrators, and parents as well. It is eye opening and enlightening.