Peer Victimization of African Children Orphaned by Aids:
The Efficacy of the Memory Book

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KEYWORDS HIV/AIDS; orphans; African; memory book; victimization

ABSTRACT Peer victimization is integral to the multifarious stressors endured by African children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. The rapacious demand on the depleted resources on the African continent to arrest the spread of HIV has relegated the experiences of orphans to the periphery of the competing priorities. In the absence of professional resources to alleviate the psychological angst that ensues as a result of pervasive victimization, the efficacy of the memory book is explored. This modality is centered in the oral tradition and uses stories, fairy tales, narratives, metaphors, anecdotes, photographs, genograms, and small artifacts to reduce psychological fragility and inoculate the child to cope better with victimization that may occur as a result of having lost a parent or both parents to AIDS.

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