A Dog called Homeless by Sarah Dean

From the title and cover, this book appears to be about a rather cute dog. However, on reading the book you discover that it is the story of a girl whose mother has died. She struggles to come to terms with the loss particularly as her father is not coping well. She feels unable to mention her mum as her dad gets upset. She begins a sponsored silence for a day at school but decides to continue and does not speak for over a month. During this time she sees visions of her mum with a large dog, and also forms a friendship with a tramp who also sees them. He appears to be some kind of guardian angel.

The story is well written and extremely poignant. It deals well with the subject of losing a parent and the situation is gradually resolved as the father learns to grieve and is able to talk about his wife.

I would suggest that this title is best aimed at teenage readers due to the sensitive nature of the story.