

Death and Grief: Books for Children

Books for Younger Children

General works on death and bereavement

JE 155.937 ARC

The Mats

by *Francisco Arcellana*

This Philippine story was first published over 50 years ago. Father returns from a trip with a bundle of sleeping mats—each with a family member's name embroidered. There are three extras, for the babies who died because, "They may be dead but they are never really gone."



JE 155.937 BRO

When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death

by *Laurene Krasny Brown*

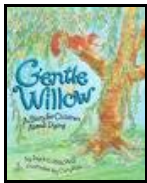
In simple language and with friendly dinosaur characters, this book explains the feelings people may have following the death of a loved one.

JE 306.9 COH

I Had a Friend Named Peter: Talking to Children about the Death of a Friend

by *Janice Cohn*

Betsy's parents and teacher help her to understand what has happened to her friend in this beautifully illustrated story. The introduction offers parents and teachers guidelines for explaining death, funerals, burial and remembering the dead.



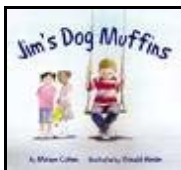
JE 155.937 MIL

Gentle Willow : a story for children about dying

by *Joyce C. Mills*

Amanda is upset that she is going to lose her friend Gentle Willow, but the Tree Wizards help her understand that her memories are gifts from her friend and that there are special ways of saying goodbye.

Death of Animals



JE COH

Jim's Dog Muffins

by *Miriam Cohen*

Everyone except Jim is talking about the accident—until he finds a way to remember Muffins with his friends.

JE DAB

Mrs. Huggins and Her Hen Hannah

by *Lydia Dabcovich*

Mrs. Huggins does everything with her pet, and when Hannah dies, she has her chick to love.



JE JOO

Better with Two

by *Barbara M. Joosse*

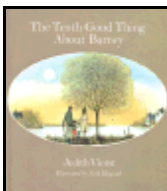
Every day Laura visits her elderly neighbour Mrs. Brady and her dog Max. When Max dies, she thinks of a way to comfort the lonely woman.

JE PAR

Jasper's Day

by *Marjorie Parker*

The family is celebrating Jasper's Day. Jasper does all of his favourite things today, the day that he will die. He is old and sick and they have decided to let him go.



JE VIO

The Tenth Good Thing about Barney

by *Judith Viorst*

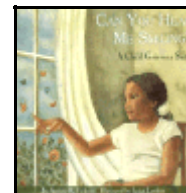
In this gentle story, a boy's mother suggests he think of ten good things to say about his cat at its funeral.

JE WIL

I'll Always Love You

by *Hans Wilhelm*

A young boy grows up with Elfie, the best dog in the whole world. But Elfie grows older and one night she dies in her sleep. He will always love Elfie, even when he has another pet.



Death of a Relative: Non-Fiction



JE 155.4124 ROS

Michael Rosen's Sad Book

by *Michael Rosen*

This is a very moving book for parents and children. As English children's author Rosen shares his profound grief over the death of his son, he shows all the stages of grief through which he had to pass. Have the tissues ready.

JE 155.937 BAR

Where is Grandpa?

by *T.A. Barron*

A boy tries to come to terms with the loss of his beloved grandfather. He finally comes to see that Grandpa is everywhere he loved, and is always with him.





JE 155.937 BRE
When I Die, Will I Get Better?

by *Joeri and Piet Breebaart*

Based on the true experiences of a father and son. Following the death of a younger brother, six-year-old Piet created a story about young rabbit brothers that echoed his own experiences.

JE 155.937 JAC

Can You Hear Me Smiling?: A Child Grieves a Sister

by *Ariane R. Jackson*

Ariane wrote this book when she was nine years old, and had just lost her sister. She had to learn that she had not caused her sister's death by saying something mean to her, and how to survive without her best friend.



JE 155.937 SCH

Mama

by *Eleanor Schick*

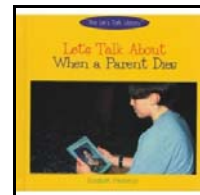
A little girl remembers her mother with the help of Louise, her new caregiver. Louise helps the child deal with her grief and hold her mother in her heart.

JE 155.937 WEI

Let's Talk about When a Parent Dies

by *Elizabeth Weitzmen*

This simple overview of feelings, grieving and fears could be read by school-aged children or to preschoolers. Illustrated with colour photographs.



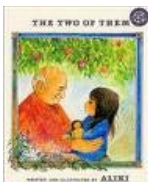
JE 306.8745 BOS

Something to Remember Me By

by *Susan V. Bosak*

A gentle story about the love between a girl and her grandmother. Both grow older, their relationship changes but love remains. After the grandmother's death, the young woman has so much to remember her by.

Death Of A Relative - Fiction

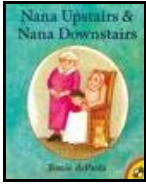


JE ALI

The Two of Them

by *Alike*

The love between a little girl and her grandfather, as she grows up and he grows older and then dies.



JE DEP

Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs

by *Tomie De Paola*

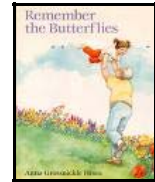
A little boy remembers growing up with his great-grandma upstairs and his grandma downstairs.

JE HIN

Remember the Butterflies

by *Anna Grossnickle Hines*

A little girl and boy learn about butterflies from their grandfather, and when he dies they learn to remember him with happiness.



JE NOD

Abuelita's Paradise

by *Carmen Santiago Nodar*

Marita sits in Grandma's rocking chair, wraps herself in her old blanket and remembers Abuelita's stories of her childhood in Puerto Rico.

Books for Older Children

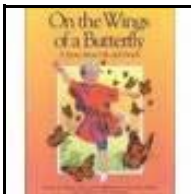
General Works on Death & Bereavement

J 155.937 FRY

Part of Me Died Too: Stories of Creative Survival among Bereaved Children and Teenagers

by *Virginia Lynn Fry*

Fry is a hospice artist working with grieving children, and this book is an inspiring collection of individual stories and artwork.



J 155.937 MAP

On the Wings of a Butterfly: A Story about Life and Death

by *Marilyn Maple*

Lisa explains death to a caterpillar who changes to a chrysalis and then to a Monarch butterfly. When Lisa dies from cancer, she flies away with the butterfly.

J 306.9 THO

I Found a Dead Bird: The Kids' Guide to the Cycle of Life and Death

by *Jan Thornhill*

This beautifully illustrated Canadian book has earned many positive reviews. Thornhill asks what life is for various animals and plants and well as humans, and then follows the cycle through to what death means for different creatures. She does not shy away from decomposition, funeral customs or the afterlife, which are all treated with empathy and dignity.



Death of a Parent



J 155.937 BRA

Everything You Need to Know When a Parent Dies

by *Fred Bratman*

A guide to coping with the stresses and emotions arising after the death of a parent.

J 155.937 DEN

Our Dad Died: The True Story of Three Kids Whose Lives Changed

by *Amy, Allie and David Dennison*

For two years, Amy, David and Allie kept a journal about their feelings over their father's sudden death. Then aged eight and four, their voices speak directly to children in the same situation.



J 155.937 KRE

How It Feels When a Parent Dies

by *Jill Krementz*

Eighteen children from seven to eighteen years old speak openly about their feelings and experiences. The stories are illustrated with photos of the children in their everyday lives.

Death of a Sibling

J 811.54 GRI

What is Goodbye?

by *Nikki Grimes*

Alternating poems by a brother and sister share their feelings about the death of their older brother. Raw grief, anger and finally acceptance and growth all appear in these simple but powerful poems.



UPDATED DECEMBER 2008