

GRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR CHILDREN

Loss of Parent

Bunting, Eve. The Memory String. NY: Clarion Books, 2000.

After Laura's mother dies, her father remarries, Laura finds a way to reconciliation. Ages 4-8

Clifton, Lucille. Everett Anderson's Goodbye. NY: Holt, 1988.

A little boy struggles through conflicting emotions as he tries to come to grips with the death of his father. Ages 5-10

Cobb, Rebecca. Missing Mommy. NY: Henry Holt and Company, 2013.

With warmth, reassurance and empathy, this book addresses the loss of a parent from a child's point of view. Ages 3-8.

Krementz, Jill. How It Feels When a Parent Dies. NY: Knopf, 1988.

A collection of photo-essays with thoughts and feelings of eighteen children, ages 7-16 who have lost a parent. Ages 5-adult

Levine, Jennifer. Forever In My Heart: A Story To Help Children Participate In Life As a Parent Dies.

A story/workbook to use with children to help them cope with their emotional stress as a parent dies. Ages 6-12

Lucan, Angie. My Big, Dumb, Invisible Dragon. *A story about a boy's grief journey with his 'grief dragon'. Ages: Elementary school students*

O'Toole, Donna. Aarvy Aardvark Finds Hope. NC: Celo Press, 1988.

Aarvy comes to terms with the loss of his mother and brother with the help of his friend. A wonderful story of grief and loss. All ages

Vigna, Judith. Saying Goodbye to Daddy. A. Whitman, 1991.

A story of a father's death and the healing that takes place in the weeks that follow. Age 4-9

Loss of Sibling

Johnson, Marv and Joy. Where's Jess. NE: Centering Corporation, 1982.

Story of a little boy whose younger brother dies. 4+

O'Toole, Donna. Aarvy Aardvark Finds Hope. NC: Celo Press, 1988.

Aarvy comes to terms with the loss of his mother and brother with the help of his friend. A wonderful story of grief and loss. All ages

Temes, Roberta. The Empty Place: A Child's Guide Through Grief. NJ: Small Horizons, 1992

A young boy is confused, angry and scared by the death of his older sister. He addresses his many feelings with the help of his teenage baby-sitter who also lost a sibling. Ages 5 and up

Loss of Grandparent

Aliki. The Two of Them. NY: Greenwillow, 1979.

A girl cares for her grandfather when he is sick and has fond memories of him after he dies. Ages 5-9

- DePaola, Tomie. Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs. NY: Putnam, 1998.
Picture book about a boy's relationship with his grandmother and great-grandmother, and their deaths. Ages 5-9
- Shriver, Maria. What's Happening to Grandpa? New York: Little, Brown and Company and Warner Books, 2004.
Story that helps children understand Alzheimer's disease.
- Simon, Norma. The Saddest Time. Albert Whitman Company, 1986.
Three anecdotes that deal with terminal illness, accidental death and the death of a grandparent. Ages 5-10

Loss of Aunt/Uncle

- Loehr, Carol Ann. My Uncle Keith Died. Canada: Trafford Publishing, 2006.
Covers topic of suicide

General Grief

- Brown, Laurie & Brown, Marc. When Dinosaurs Dies: A Guide to Understanding Death. NY: Little, Brown & Co., 1996.
Gently and directly addresses children's fears and curiosity about death. Ages 4-10
- Brown, Margaret Wise. The Dead Bird. MA: Addison-Wesley, 1995.
Children confront the cycle of life when they find a dead bird. Ages 4-8
- Buscaglia, Leo. The Fall of Freddie the Leaf. NJ: Slack, Inc., 1982.
The story of life and death, as related through the changing seasons. Ages 5-adult
- Doerrfelt, Cori. The Rabbit Listened. Dial Books, 2018.
A moving and universal picture book about empathy and kindness, sure to soothe heartaches big and small. Ages 3-5
- Dougy Center. After a Suicide: A Workbook for Grieving Kids. Oregon.
Explains suicide events to children focusing on reasons people choose to die. Grades K-4
- Durant, Alan. Always and Forever. NY: Harcourt, 2003.
After Fox dies, his friends are devastated. Squirrel helps them to learn that in their hearts and memories, Fox is still with them – always and forever. Ages 4+
- Empson, Jo. Rabbityness. ME: Child's Play, 2012.
When Rabbit disappears and no one knows where he has gone, his friends are desolate. It positively introduces children to dealing with loss. Ages 3-7
- Fry, Virginia Lynn. Part of Me Died, Too. NY: Dutton Children's Books, 1995.
Eleven true stories about young people who experienced the loss of family members or friends. A sensitively written and resourceful book. Ages 9-adult
- Heegard, Marge. When Someone Very Special Dies. MN: Woodland Press, 1988.
A workbook for grieving children to illustrate to help them cope with loss. Ages 6-12

- Henderson, Michael. Jungle Journey: Grieving & Remembering Eleanor the Elephant. Traverse Publishing Co., 2000.
A guide for parents and their children who are struggling with the trauma of loss.
- Holmes, Margaret M. A Terrible Thing Happened. NY: Magination Press, 2000.
This book helps a child deal with a scary event. Ages 4+
- Jeffers, Oliver. The Heart and the Bottle. Philomel Books, 2010.
Explores themes of Love and Loss. Ages: Elementary school age
- Karst, Patricia. The Invisible String. CA: DeVorss & Company, 2001.
Although not specifically about loss from death it discusses how people are always connected through the invisible string of love. Ages : elementary school age
- Loth, Sebastian. Remembering Crystal. NY: NorthSouth, 2010.
A gentle story of a duck and her best friend a turtle. In the gentle story, children learn that true friendship is gift that doesn't die. Ages 3+
- Mellonie, Bryan & Ingpen, Robert. Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children. NY: Bantam, 1983.
Addresses the cycle of life by describing the beginnings, endings and life span in different parts of nature and with people. Ages 4-10
- Mills, Joyce C. Gentle Willow. NY: Magination Press, 1993.
A tender story that addresses feelings of sadness, love, disbelief, and anger related to illness and death. Ages 4-9
- Raschka, Chris. The Purple Balloon. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2007.
Story about a boy who has a terminal illness. Ages 6-9
- Rowland, Joanna. The Memory Box: A Book About Grief. Sparkhouse Family, 2017.
Explores grief and remembering loved ones. Ages 4-8
- Santat, Dan. After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again. Roaring Book Press, 2017.
Explores coping with anxiety and fear. Ages: Elementary School Ages
- Shriver, Maria. What's Heaven? New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.
A story with loving, confident and uplifting answers to questions posed by a little girl. Ages. 5+
- Stepanek, Mattie JT. Heartsongs. Alexandria, VA: VSP Books, 2001.
A collection of the early poems and artwork of a young, gifted, award-winning poet who explored the challenges in living with a life-threatening condition.
- Stepanek, Mattie JT. Journeys through Heartsongs. Alexandria, VA: VSP Books, 2001.
A second collection of poems which share the rare wisdom Mattie has acquired through his struggle with muscular dystrophy.
- Stickney, Doris. Water Bugs and Dragonflies. Pilgrim Press, 1982.
This mini-book uses the symbol of a water bug turning into a dragonfly to weave a tale of death and new life. Ages 3-9
- Stein, Sara. About Dying: An Open Family Book for Parents and Children Together. Walker, 1974

*A picture book to help the young child understand death and to participate in commemorating.
Ages 4-8*

Thomas, Pat. I Miss You: A First Look at Death. NY: Barron's Educational Series, Inc. 2001.

This book helps children understand that death is a natural complement to life and explores the normal feelings of grief. Ages 4+

Varley, Susan. Badgers Parting Gifts. NY: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1984.

This wonderfully illustrated book is about the death of someone very special and how his friend's memories of him help them with their grief. Ages 4-9

Viorst, Judith. Tenth Good Thing about Barney. NY: Atheneum, 1971.

Illustrated book for children about the death and burial of a pet cat. Ages 4-8

Wild, Margaret. Old Pig. NY: Atheneum, 1971. NY: Dial Books for Young Readers.

A tender story of living and loving, giving and receiving. About a young pig who lives with his grandmother. Ages 3-8

Wolfelt, Alan D. Healing Your Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas for Kids. Fort Collins: Companion Press, 2000.

Offers suggestions for healing activities that can help survivors learn to express their grief and mourn naturally.