

**Death of a Person:**  
**A Family Member, Friend, Teacher or Acquaintance**

Barrett, A. 35 Ways to Help a Grieving Child. After a death, children may want to tell you what happened, where they were when they were told about the death, and what it was like for them. Telling their story is a healing experience, and the best way adults can help young grievers is to listen to their stories.

j PAR 155 Thirty

Brown, L. When Dinosaurs Die: a Guide to Understanding Death. Explains in simple language the feelings people may have regarding the death of a loved one and the ways to honor the memory of someone who has died.

j 155.937 B878

Brown, M. The Dead Bird. One day, the children find a bird lying on its side with its eyes closed and no heartbeat. They are very sorry, so they decide to say good-bye. In the park, they dig a hole for the bird and cover it with warm sweet-ferns and flowers. Finally, they sing sweet songs to send the little bird on its way.

J PAR PIC Brown

Bunting, E. Rudi's Pond. The young narrator's best friend, Rudi, is very sick, and it's hard for her to understand. When Rudi dies, the narrator and the other children in school help to build a pond by the big knobby oak to remember him by. A hummingbird feeder that Rudi made hangs by the pond, and one day a special hummingbird comes to visit. Based on a true story, *Rudi's Pond* is an insightful book that will help young readers to deal with loss.

j PAR PIC Bunting

Clifton, L. Everett Anderson's Goodbye. *Everett Anderson's Goodbye* is a touching portrait of a little boy who is trying to come to grips with his father's death. Lucille Clifton captures Everett's conflicting emotions as he confronts this painful reality. We see him struggle through many stages, from denial and anger to depression and, finally, acceptance. j PAR PIC Clifton

Cobb, R. Missing Mommy. Honest and straightforward, this touching story explores the many emotions a bereaved child may experience, from anger and guilt to sadness and bewilderment. Ultimately, *Missing Mommy* focuses on the positive—the recognition that the child is not alone but still part of a family that loves and supports him. j PAR PIC Cobb

Cohn, J. I Had a Friend Named Peter. When Betsy learns about the death of a friend, her parents and kindergarten teacher answer questions about dying, funerals, and the burial process. j PAR PIC Cohn

De Paola, T. Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs. A small boy enjoys his relationship with his grandmother and his great-grandmother, but he learns to face their inevitable death. j PAR PIC De Paolo

Empson, J. Rabbityness. Rabbit enjoys doing rabbit things, but he also loves un-rabbit things! When Rabbit suddenly disappears, no one knows where he has gone. His friends are desolate. But, as it turns out, Rabbit has left behind some very special gifts for them, to help them discover their own unrabbit talents! jP Empson

Hanson, W. The Next Place. The author's musings about heaven, or whatever you might call "the next place" that one inhabits after this life, are presented in arcs of text superimposed on tranquil collage illustrations. The overall sense is one of peace. No specific religious allusions are made. The book might be reassuring for children facing the loss of someone dear. j PAR PIC Hanson

Henley, K. Gram's Song. Anthony enjoys gardening with Gram and learns a lot about seeds and snails. Anthony is sad when his Gram dies but learns from his mother that Gram's body was like a seed or snail shell, and that the real alive part of Gram is with Jesus. She also reminds him of the treasures she left him, including her special song. jP Henley

Hest, A. Remembering Mrs. Rossi. Eight-year-old Annie lives in a sunny apartment in Manhattan with her father, Professor Rossi. Life would be pretty good if only Annie didn't so achingly miss her mother. With tenderness and humor, Amy Hest reveals the struggles of a father and daughter as they forge a new life together. j Hest

Joslin, M. The Goodbye Boat. Saying goodbye to someone you love is always hard. Saying goodbye when someone you love dies is perhaps the hardest thing of all. The simple, thoughtful text and evocative illustrations explore the pain and grief of saying goodbye and open the door to discussion for readers of any age. *The Goodbye Boat* provides a message of hope that sadness will ease and comforts with the reassurance that death is not the end. j 155.937 Joslin

Kerner, S. Always By My Side. This beautifully illustrated book conveys the heart-warming message to children that even though a father is not in their lives, he is still part of them. They will realize that they are like him in character, looks and actions; that his spirit surrounds them in their day-to-day activities, and helps to make them who they are. j PAR PIC Kerner

Miles, M. Annie and the Old One. Annie's grandmother, the "old one", has said she will return to Mother Earth when she has finished helping Annie and Annie's mother to weave their new rug, so the child does everything she can to delay the project. When the grandmother explains her beliefs, Annie understands and no longer attempts to hold back time. j PAR PIC Miles

Moundlic, C. The Scar. When his mother dies, a little boy is angry at his loss but does everything he can to hold onto the memory of her scent, her voice, and the special things she did for him, even as he tries to help his father and grandmother cope. jPAR PIC Moundlic

Murphy, P. Death. This can be a difficult and emotional topic, but the author addresses it in a direct and matter of fact manner. She discusses what death is, how it can happen and how it affects people, as well as funerals and memories, and the different ways of coping with such a loss. j 155.973 Murphy

Parr, T. The Goodbye Book. Through the lens of a pet fish who has lost his companion, Todd Parr tells a moving and wholly accessible story about saying goodbye. Touching upon the host of emotions children experience, Todd reminds readers that it's okay not to know all the answers, and that someone will always be there to support them. j PAR PIC Parr

Penn, A. Chester Raccoon and the Acorn Full of Memories. After his mother explains why his classmate is not returning to school, she teaches Chester Raccoon how to make a memory. j PAR PIC Penn

Raschka, C. The Purple Balloon. "No one likes to talk about dying. It's hard work." The focus is first on how support from those around us can help "make dying not so hard" for an older person. The same case is then made for a child who faces death, concluding with "Good help makes dying less hard. Good help makes leaving easier." The balloons representing the two who are dying morph from their original colors to shades of purple. A message from the author explains why he uses the purple balloons as a symbol. The book ends with suggestions on how to help a friend who is terminally ill. j PAR PIC Raschka

Rosen, M. Michael Rosen's Sad Book. Sad things happen to everyone, and sometimes people feel sad for no reason at all. What makes Michael Rosen sad is thinking about his son, Eddie, who died suddenly at the age of eighteen. In this book the author writes about his sadness, how it affects him, and some of the things he does to cope with it—like telling himself that everyone has sad stuff (not just him) and trying every day to do something he can be proud of. Whether or not you have known what it's like to feel deeply sad, the truth of this book will surely touch you. j 155.9 Rosen

Smith, D. A Taste of Blackberries. A young boy recounts his efforts to adjust to the accidental death of his best friend. j Smith

Thornhill, J. I Found a Dead Bird: The Kid's Guide to the Cycle of Life & Death. The death of a bird is the jumping-off point for this intelligent, wide-ranging look at the cycle of life. From life spans to how things die, from what happens after

death to how people cope with the loss of a loved one, the author guides young readers through difficult territory with grace and sensitivity. j 306.9 Thornhill

Varley, S. Badger's Parting Gifts. Badger's friends are overwhelmed with their loss when he dies. By sharing their memories of his gifts, they find the strength to face the future with hope. j PAR PIC Varley

What About the Kids? Understanding Their Needs in Funeral Planning & Services. By adulthood, most of us have known someone who died and have attended a funeral. But what is a funeral like for a child or teenager who unexpectedly loses a parent, sibling, grandparent or friend? And how do children say goodbye. This guidebook has been developed by The Dougy Center, The National Center for Grieving Children and Families, to help parents and caregivers support their children before, during and after a funeral or memorial service. j PAR 155.937 What