

Coping with Loss – Death & Dying

General

Brooks, Bruce. *All that Remains*. Three novellas explore the effects of death on young lives. **YA Brooks**

Bryant-Mole, Karen. *Talking about Death?* Focuses on death as part of a natural cycle and as part of the entire process of life; also discusses common responses to death. **J155.937 Bryant-Mole**

Brown, Laurie Krasney. *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. **J155.937 Bro**

Buscaglia, Leo. *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*. As Freddie experiences the changing seasons along with his companion leaves, he learns about the delicate balance between life and death. **PARENTS J155.9 Buscaglia**

Fitzgerald, Helen. *The Grieving Child: a Parent's Guide*. This book offers practical, compassionate advice for helping a child cope with the death of a parent or other loved one. **PARENTS 155.9 Fitzgerald**

Goble, P. *Beyond the Ridge*. 1989. At her death an elderly Plains Indian woman experiences the afterlife believed in by her people, beyond the ridge, to a more beautiful world. **JJF Gob**

Godfrey, Jan. *The Cherry Blossom Tree: a Grandfather Talks about Life and Death*. Five-year-old Harriet's grandfather explains that everything that is born has to die sometime, but that God's love makes all things new. **JJF God**

James, John. **When Children Grieve: for adults to help children deal with death, divorce, pet loss, moving and other losses. 155.937 Jam (adult collection)**

Kroen, William C. *Helping Children Cope with the Loss of a Loved One: A guide for grownups*. Dr. Kroen offers sound advice; comfort and compassion to any adult helping a child cope with death. Weaving in anecdotes about real children and their families, he explains how children from infancy through age 18 perceive and react to death and offers suggestions for how to respond to children at different ages and stages. **PARENTS J155.937 Kroen**

Mellonie, Bryan. *Lifetimes: a Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children*. A pet . . . a friend . . . or a relative dies, and it must be explained to a child. This sensitive book is a useful tool in explaining to children that death is a part of life and that, eventually, all living things reach the end of their own special lifetimes. **PARENTS J155.937 Mel**

Moser, Adolph. *Don't Despair on Thursdays*. This book explains the grief process to children aged 4-10, and helps them understand that grieving is a normal response. It offers practical approaches that children can use to cope with the emotional pain they feel. **J155.934 Moser**

Prestine, Joan Singleton. *Helping Children Cope With Death: a Practical Resource Guide For Someone Special Died*. For use with students preschool-grade 3. **PARENTS J155.937 Pre**

Romain, Trevor. *What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?* Describes the overwhelming emotions involved in dealing with the death of a loved one and discusses how to cope with such a situation.

PARENTS J155.937 Romain

Friends

Aliki. *The Two of Them*. 1979. This story of a loving relationship between grandfather and granddaughter is written in verse. **JJF Aliki**

Bley, Annette *And What Comes After a Thousand?* 2007. A little girl comes to understand that memories live beyond death. **JJF Bley**.

Bunting, Eve. *Rudi's pond*. When a sick boy dies, his friends and classmates remember him by building a schoolyard pond in his memory. **JJF Bunting**

Butts, Nancy. *Cheshire Moon*. After the death of her best friend, a twelve-year-old hearing-impaired girl faces the choice of self-destruction through denial and withdrawal or self-acceptance in the real, hearing world. **JF Butts**

Cohn, J. *I Had a Friend Named Peter: talking to children about the death of a friend*. 1987. Simple, direct language and drawings tell the story of a child's loss of a friend. A forward for parents accompanies the story. **PARENTS JJF Cohn**

Draper, Sharon M. *Tears of a Tiger*. The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school. **YA Dra**

Fritts, Mary Bahr. *If Nathan Were Here*. A young boy grieves the loss of his best friend and thinks of how things would be if he were still alive. **PARENTS JJF Bahr**

Hurwin, Davida. *The Farther You Run*. Even with a new best friend and a new boyfriend, Samantha has a hard time adjusting to life without her best friend Juliana, who died of cancer. **YA Hurwin**

Kornblatt, Marc. *Understanding Buddy*. When a new classmate stops speaking because of the sudden death of his mother, fifth grader Sam tries to befriend him and risks destroying his relationship with his best friend Alex. **JF Kornblatt (LP)**

Paterson, K. *Bridge to Terabithia*. 1977. Leslie and Jess are from different backgrounds but they form a close friendship and create an imaginary, secret kingdom. The girl's tragic accidental death marks the end of childhood for Jess, but their shared experiences help him bear the loss. **JF Paterson**

Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles

Carson, Jo. *You Hold Me and I'll Hold You*. 1997. When a great-aunt dies, a young child finds comfort in being held and in holding too. **JJF Carson**.

Castellucci, Cecil. *Grandmother's Gloves*. 2010. When her Grandma, a devoted gardener, dies, a little girl inherits her gardening gloves and feels closer to her memory.

Cazet, Denys. *Christmas Moon*. Patrick misses Grandpa, especially at Christmas, but his mother helps him to remember happy times with Grandpa and to use what Grandpa taught him to make Christmas happy for himself and his friends. **JJF Cazet (HOLIDAY)**

De Paola, T. *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs*. 1973. A small boy's loving rituals with his great grandmother are terminated suddenly by her death. He experiences the emptiness and later accepts the fantasy that she is "upstairs" with the stars. **JJF De Paola**

Doray, Malika. *One more Wednesday*. When a little animal's grandmother dies, he remembers good times with her and asks his mother about death. **JJF Doray**

Haynes, Max. *Grandma's Gone to Live in the Stars*. In the moments after grandmother has passed away, her spirit is at peace as she says goodbye to her sleeping family and her home. **JJF Haynes**

Henkes, Kevin. *Sun & Spoon*. 1998. After the death of his grandmother, ten year old Spoon tries to find the perfect artifact to preserve his memories of her. **JF Henkes**

Howe, James *Kaddish for Grandpa in Jesus' Name, Amen*. 2004. Five year old Emily tries to understand her grandfather's death by exploring the Christian and Jewish rituals that her family practices during and after his funeral.

Joose, Barbara M. *Ghost Wings*. 2001. While celebrating the Days of the Dead, a young Mexican girl remembers her wonderful grandmother who sang songs, made tortillas, chased monsters away, and loved butterflies. **J394.264 Joosse (General Holiday)**

Lamm, C. Drew. *Bittersweet*. When her beloved grandmother suffers a stroke, high school junior and talented artist Taylor finds her inspiration and creative energy disappearing until she learns to reconnect with others and herself in unexpected ways. **YA Lamm**

Miles, M. *Annie and the Old One*. 1971. Annie, a Navajo Indian girl, tries to prevent her grandmother's death by undoing the rug she is weaving. Grandmother helps her understand dying in the context of universal rhythms. An excellent teacher-child relationship is described. **JF Miles**

Rylant, Cynthia. *Missing May*. After the death of the beloved aunt who raised her, twelve year old Samantha and her Uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living. **JF Rylant**

Shriver, M. *What's Heaven?* 1999. When Kate's Great-grandma dies her mother lovingly answers all her questions about death, funerals and heaven. Explanations are spiritual in nature, explaining that "heaven is not a place you can see, it's somewhere you believe in" and that "you go to heaven when your life here on earth is over." **PARENTS JJF Shriver**

Strete, Craig. *When Grandfather Journeys into Winter*. A young Indian boy struggles to accept his grandfather's rapidly approaching death. **JF Strete**

Thompson, Colin. *Looking for Atlantis*. After his grandfather's death, a young boy learns to see the wonders of the world through the old man's eyes. **JJF Tho**

Yolen, J. *Grandad Bill's Song*. 1994. While trying to understand and express his own emotions about his grandfather's death, Jon asks his family members, "What did you do the day Grandad died?" Memories of Grandad come alive in poem, comforting Jon in his desire to talk to the one person who would understand his feelings. **JJF Yolen**

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Illness

Ferris, Jean. *Invincible Summer*. 1987. Seventeen-year-old Robin, in treatment for leukemia, falls in love with a boy who also has the disease, and together they attempt to survive their ordeal. **YA Ferris**

Hurwin, Davida. *A Time for Dancing*. Seventeen-year-old best friends Samantha and Juliana tell their stories in alternating chapters after Juliana is diagnosed with cancer. **YA Hurwin**

Slote, A. *Hang Tough, Paul Mather*. 1973. This is the sensitive story of Paul, a twelve year old boy struggling to cope with, and combat, leukemia. Paul's feelings and perceptions concerning his own incurable illness are vividly portrayed. Fear of death, anger about being sick, dislike of the treatment and its side effects are some of the emotions Paul shares with an understanding doctor. The family, too, is realistically portrayed. Although this story does not include an actual death, it does deal with feeling aroused by the threat of death. **JF Slote**

Parents

Clifton, L. *Everett Anderson's Goodbye*. New York: Holt, 1983. A simple, poetic story of the death of a young black boy's father. **JJF Clifton**

Creech, Sharon. *Walk Two Moons*. After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left. **JF Creech (LP version also available)**

Dessen, Sarah. *The Truth About Forever*. The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her brainy boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief. **YA Dessen**

Deaver, Julie Reece. *You Bet Your Life: a Novel*. While working as an intern on a popular television comedy show produced in Chicago, seventeen-year-old Bess tries to come to terms with the loss of her mother, who committed suicide six months earlier. **YA Dea**

Freitas, Donna. *The Survival Kit*. After her mother dies, 16 year old Rosie works through her grief by finding meaning in a survival kit that her mother left behind.

Lewis, Paddy Greenwall. *Helping Children Cope with the Death of a Parent: a Guide For the First Year*. Organized around a timeline of the first year of mourning, this warm yet practical guide will show adults how to help children cope. **155.937 Lew (adult collection)**

Lindquist, Susan Hart. *Wander*. Grieving for their dead mother, twelve-year-old James and his younger sister Sary find healing in their affection for a stray dog. **JF Lin**

Lisle, Janet. *The Lost Flower Children*. After their mother's death, Olivia and Nellie go to live with their great aunt, where they slowly bring her overgrown and weedy old garden back to life, enabling them to adjust to a new life as well. **JF Lisle (LP version also available)**

Mills, L. *The Rag Coat*. 1991. Minna proudly wears her new coat made of clothing scraps, including her dead papa's work clothes. At school the other children laugh at her coat until she tells them the stories behind the scraps. **JJF Mil**

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Possibles*. Following the death of her father, a twelve-year-old girl takes a summer job instead of going to camp with a friend as planned. **JF Nelson**

Ness, E. *Sam Bangs and Moonshine*. 1966. Samantha, called Sam, is a fisherman's daughter who envelops herself in a world of fantasy in which her dead mother is a mermaid living in a cave. Her father helps Sam to confront reality and distinguish it from her fantasy world. **JJF Ness (2nd copy in award collection)**

Pets & Animals

Carrick, Donald. *The Accident*. 1976. After his dog is hit by a truck and killed, Christopher must deal with his own feelings of depression and guilt. **JJF Carrick**.

Cochran, Bill. *The Forever Dog*. Mike and his dog Corky plan to be best friends forever, so when Corky becomes sick and dies, Mike is angry about the broken promise. **JJF Cochran**

Cohen, M. *Jim's Dog Muffin*. 1984. After his dog is killed, Jim demonstrates anger and sadness. Friends rally to support Jim in this simple story of the need to grieve. **JJF Coh**

Demas, Corinne. *Saying Good-Bye to Lulu*. When her dog Lulu dies, a girl grieves but then continues with her life. 2004. **JJF Demas**

DiSalvo, DyAnne. *A Dog like Jack*. 2001. After a long life of chasing squirrels, licking ice cream cones, and loving his adoptive family, an old dog comes to the end of his days. **JJF Disalvo**

Doray, Malika. *One more Wednesday*. When a little animal's grandmother dies, he remembers good times with her and asks his mother about death. **JJF Doray**

Fox, M. *Tough Boris*. 1994. Boris von der Borch is a tough and fearless pirate. But when his parrot dies he cries and cries. **JJF Fox**

Harris, Robie H. *Goodbye, Mousie*. A boy grieves for his dead pet Mousie, helps to bury him, and begins to come to terms with his loss. **JJF Harris**

Hurd, Edith Thatcher. *The Black Dog Who Went into the Woods*. The various members of a family react to the death of their dog. **JJF Hurd**

Keller, Holly. *Goodbye, Max*. Ben blames his parents for the death of his dog, Max, and does not want the new puppy they brought home. **JJF Kel**

London, J. *Gray Fox*. 1993. Beautiful seasonal illustrations accompany the story of gray fox - running, hunting, mating. After being struck by a truck, gray fox is discovered and laid to rest by a young boy. A poetic story of gray fox's proud spirit which lives on in his cubs and their cubs after them. **JJF Lon**

Orgel, Doris. *Whiskers, Once and Always*. 1986. When her beloved cat Whiskers dies, Rebecca finds it difficult to vent her anger and accept her mother's comfort. **JF Orgel**

Puttock, Simon. *A Story for Hippo: a Book About Loss*. Hippo and Monkey are best, best, best friends and when the wise old Hippo dies, Monkey is very sad until Chameleon helps him remember the stories he and Hippo shared. **JJF Puttock**

Updated 12/11

Varley, S. *Badger's Parting Gifts*. 1984. Following Badger's peaceful death, his friends recall their special memories of how he taught each of them something special - Badger's parting gifts. **REA (Videorecording)**

Viorst, J. *The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*. 1971. When Barney, a pet cat, dies his master decides to have a funeral for him. The little boy tries to think of ten good things to say about Barney but can only think of nine. Finally his father helps him with a tenth. The book is gentle and positive. **JJF Viorst**

Wallace-Brodeur, Ruth. *Goodbye, Mitch*. A young boy describes how he feels when the family cat dies. **JJF Wal**

Walsh, Barbara. *Sammy in the Sky*. 2011. A little girl tells about her special pet Sammy, "the best hound dog in the whole world," and how, after he becomes sick and dies, she comes to know the truth of the mother's words.

White, E. B. *Charlotte's Web*. Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers he is to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him. **JF White**

Wild, Margaret. *Harry & Hopper*. 2011. One day when Harry comes home from school, his faithful companion Hopper isn't there to greet him, in a touching story about the process of healing after losing a beloved pet.

Wild, Margaret. *Old Pig*. Because Old Pig knows that her time to die is near, she puts her affairs in order and takes a slow walk with Granddaughter to savor the beauty for one last time. **JJF Wild**

Wilhelm, H. *I'll Always Love You*. 1985. This book sensitively portrays the close relationship between a boy and his dog. As the years go by and the young narrator grows taller, his beloved companion, Elfie, grows rounder and slower. And then, one night, Elfie dies in her sleep. Grief-stricken, the boy takes comfort in the fact that every night he told Elfie, "I'll always love you." **JJF Wilhelm**

Yolen, Jane *The Day Tiger Rose Said Goodbye*. 2011. A cat whose kitten days are far behind her says goodbye to her human family and the animals and places that have made her life special, before leaving this life behind.

Siblings / Children other

Brooks, Bruce. *All that Remains*. Three novellas explore the effects of death on young lives. **YA Brooks**