

Recommended Reading

The listings below are books for parents and teachers to use with children at various age levels to explain death. The age and grade level listing enables parents and teachers to select books that are developmentally appropriate for the child in terms of language and content. This listing is broad and no one book is implicitly recommended. The adult should first read the book to determine its acceptability and relevant and later read the book with the child(ren). Encourage the child(ren) to express their emotions while reading and discussing the books.

It is important to determine what message you expect a child(ren) to get from a book. Ask the child(ren) to explain their interpretations about stories as they are read to determine if there are distortions or misperceptions to be clarified. Two key tasks are to help the child(ren) gain a realistic concept of death and to cope with the feelings that accompany death.

Children:

*About Dying. Sara Bonnett Stein. Walker and Co. (Pre K – grade 3)

*The Accident. Carol Carrick. New York: Seabury Press, 1976.

Am I Still a Sister? Alvin Sims.

Children Are Not Paper Dolls. Erin Linn Leroy.

Dead Bird. Margaret Brown. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1965. (Grades K-3)

*Death is Natural. Laurence Pringle. New York: Scholastic Book Service, 1977. (Grades K-3)

Dusty Was My Friend. Andrea F. Clardy. New York: Human Science Press, 1984. (Grades 1-3)

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf. Leo Buscaglia. New York: Charles B. Slack, Inc. 1982. (Grades 4-8)

Grover. Bill Cleaver. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1970. (Not about the Sesame Street Character. About a mother's suicide.) (Ages 9-13)

Growing Time. Sandol Stoddard Warbarg. Boston: Houghton Mufflin Co., 1969.

Healing Your Grieving Heart for Kids. A. Wolfelt. Fort Collins, CO: Companion 2001.

Healing Your Grieving Heart for Teens: 100 Practical Ideas. A. Wolfelt. Fort Collins, CO: Companion

*How It Feels When A Parent Dies. Jill Krementz. New York: Alfred A. Knopf Inc., 1987. (Grades 7-12)

*The Kids Book About Death and Dying. Eric Rolfes.

I'll Miss You, Mr. Hooper. N. Stiles. New York: Random House/Children's Television Workshop, 1984. (Grades 1-3)

Loss and How to Cope With It. J. Bernstein. New York: Houghton, 1976. (For adolescents)

Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children. Brian Melanie and Robert Ingpen. New York: Bantam Books, 1983. (Grades K-3)

The Magic Moth. Virginia Lee. New York: Seabury Press, 1972. (Grades 3-8)

*Me and My Little Brain. John Fitzgerald. New York: Dial Press, 1971. (Grades K-3)

The Mulberry Music. Doris Ogel. New York: Harper and Row, 1971. (Ages 9-13)

*My Brother Joey Died. Gloria McLendon.

A Taste of Blackberries. Doris Buchanan Smith. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1973. (For Ages 8-13)

The Tenth Good Thing about Barney. J. Viorst. New York: Atheneum, 1972. (Grades K-3)

*When a Friend Dies: A Book for Teens about Grieving and Healing. M.E. Gootman. Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing, 1994.

When People Die. J.E. Bernstein and S.V. Gullo. New York: Dutton, 1977. (Grades K-3) (Gives theories on afterlife)

When Someone Dies. Sharon Greenlee. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishing, 1992.

When Someone Very Special Dies. Marge Heegaard. (Ages 6-12)

*Why Did Grandpa Die? A Book About Death. B. Hazen. Racine, WI: Western Publishing Co., 1985.

Why Has Grandpa Gone? R. Kopp. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderman, 1983.

Why Did He Die? Audrey Harris. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1965. (Grades K-3)

*It Must Hurt A Lot. Doris Sanford and Graci Evans. Multnomah Press.

Tell Me Papa. Joy and Marv Johnson. Centering Press.

A Terrible Thing Happened - A story for children who have witnessed violence or trauma. Margaret M. Holmes, and Sasha J. Mudlaff. 2000.

For Parents/Teachers:

*About Dying: An Open Book for Parents and Children Together. Sara Bonnett Stein. New York: Walker and Co., 1977. (Grades K-3)

Are You Sad Too? Helping Children Deal with Loss and Death. Danah Seibert, Judy C. Drolet, Joyce V. Fetro. Santa Cruz, CA: ETR Associates, 1993. (to age 10).

Children's Experience with Death. R. Zeligs. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1974.

*Explaining Death to Children. Earl A. Grollman, comp. Boston Beacon Press, 1967.

For Those Who Live: Helping Children Cope with the Death of a Brother or Sister. Kathy LaZour. Dallas, TX, 1983.

*Helping Children Cope. J. Fassler. New York: Free Press, 1978.

Helping Children Cope with Separation and Loss. Claudia Jewett. Harvard, MA: Harvard Common Press, 1982.

*How Do We Tell Children?: A Step-by-Step Guide for Helping Children Two to Teen Cope When Someone Dies. Don Schaeffer and Christine Lyons. New York: Newmarket Press, 1993

Learning to Say Goodbye; When a Parent Dies. Eda LeShan. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1976. (Grades 3-6)

No Time for Goodbyes: Coping with Sorrow, Anger and Injustice After a Tragic Death. Janice Harris Ford.

*On Children and Death. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. New York: MacMillan, 1983.

Questions on Death and Dying. R.E. Kubler. New York: Collier, 1974. (Grades 3-6)

*Talking About Death: A dialogue between parent and child. Earl Grollman. Boston: Beacon, 1976. (Grades 3-6)

Talking With Young Children About Death - A Message from Fred Rogers. Fred Rogers.
Family communications Inc. VIDEO

Telling a Child About Death. Edgar N. Jackson. Hawthorn/Dutton.

*Available at Mason Public Library