

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

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

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 of 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+

- 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 4-8.
- 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
- 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.