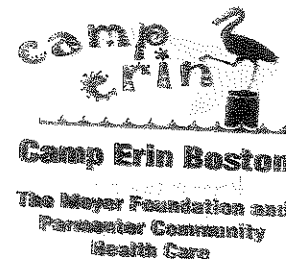


Resources for Children and Grief

**CareGroup Parmenter
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*A selected Bibliography of Books for Children
on Loss, Grief and Death*

Fiction

Preschool:

Clifton, Lucille. *Everett Anderson's Goodbye*. Ill. by Ann Grifalconi

Everett Anderson is a small boy who struggles with his grief over his father's death. The book is unusual in formally listing and carefully and believably displaying the five stages of grief. Moving illustrations.

Cohen, Miriam. *Jim's Dog Muffins*. Ill. by Lillian Hoban.

Jim cannot bear to talk to or play with his friends at school after his dog Muffins is killed in an accident, but his understanding teacher says, "Maybe Jim needs time to feel sad." And finally his best friend Paul does just the right thing. Especially good for the school setting and the simple recounting of Jim's feelings.

De Paola, Tomie, Author-Illustrator. *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs*.

Tommy loves both his great-grandmother, Nana Upstairs, and his grandmother, Nana Downstairs, and has a special relationship with each of them. Tommy's reaction to the death of Nana Upstairs, and eventually, Nana Downstairs, is treated in a sensitive and gentle way. Excellent for the depiction of the extremely aged.

Fox, Mem. *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge*. Ill. by Julie Visas.

Young Wilder is interested in the old people's home next door; he is especially fascinated by the question of memory and what happens to it. A beguiling picture of a child interacting happily and lovingly with the aged and an introduction to the problem of memory loss.

Hughes, Shirley, Author/Illustrator. *Alfie and the Birthday Surprise*.

Alfie's friend and neighbor, Bob McNally, is devoted to his old cat Smoky, and when Smoky dies he cannot seem to recover his spirits. But the surprise party that Alfie's family and Bob's wife and daughter Maureen give him includes a new kitten, Boots - and Bob is much happier. Unusual in the depiction of an adult's grief for an animal.

Keller, Holly, Author-Illustrator. *Goodbye, Max*.

Ben does not want the new puppy his parents brought him after the death from old age of his dog Max. As in *Jim's Dog Muffins*, a friend helps Ben to grieve over Max's death so that now he can accept the puppy.

Lydon, George Ella. *Ada's Pal*. Ill. by Marguerite Casparian.

Ada was a small black fluffy dog whose grief over the death of her playmate, Troublesome, reduced her to shivering misery. But a new puppy, Pal, restores her liveliness and gaiety. Interesting for showing that animals grieve for other animals

Russo, Marisabina, Author-Illustrator. *Grandpa Abe*.

Sarah dearly loves her step-grandfather, Grandpa Abe. He is funny and friendly and Sarah can't believe it when he dies. But she takes solace in wearing his sweater and showing his magic tricks.

Viorst, Judith. *The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*. Ill. by Erik Blegvad.

The young owner of Barney the cat tries to think of ten good things about him after he died. He can only think of nine until his father explains that Barney will return to the earth and help nourish other growing things. Lovely illustrations.

Zalber, Jane Breskin, Author/Illustrator. *Pearl's Marigolds for Grandpa*.

After Grandpa's death, Pearl wonders where he is and takes comfort in handling his possessions. When she plants marigolds just as they did together, her grandmother says that Pearl keeps Grandpa alive through her actions. Contains a careful description of mourning customs in the major faiths.

Primary:

Bunting, Eve. *Fly Away Home*. Ill. by Ronald Himler.

Another type of loss is being homeless. Andrew and his father live in an airport. They must be very careful not to be caught. Andrew longs for a home of his own and takes hope from a bird, caught in the terminal, who finally escapes to the outer world.

Carrick, Carol. *The Accident*. Ill. by Donald Carrick.

Marking the grave of his dog, Bodger, killed in an accident, gives Christopher some relief from his feelings of grief, anger and depression. The intensity of his suffering and his longing for the accident never to have happened are touching.

Gould, Deborah. *Grandpa's Slide Show*. Ill. by Cheryl Harness.

Grandpa's slide shows were a family ritual; his grandchildren loved them. They helped change the slides and the pictures were always very interesting. When Grandpa died, it helped them all to look at the pictures just as usual and to talk about Grandpa.

Thomas, Jane Resh. *Saying Good-bye to Grandma*. Ill. by Marcia Sewall.

Suzie and her family all go back to the family home when Grandma dies. The aunts and uncles and cousins are there, Grandpa is very sad, and many people cry. But there are also fun and games, swimming in the lake, and lots and lots of food. Suzie isn't sure she wants to attend the funeral, but she is glad she does when she sees how many people loved her grandmother. Particularly good for the detailed description of the funeral and burial and for the perception that people can be happy and sad at the same time.

Varley, Susan. *Badger's Parting Gifts*.

"Badger was dependable, reliable, and always ready to help when help was needed." All his friends were very sad when he died, but took comfort in talking about what he had done for each of them. A thoughtful description of death, which freed Badger to run and play again, and of his legacy of knowledge to be passed on to others. Poetic and beautiful.

Waber, Bernard. *Ira Says Goodbye*.

Ira is devastated by the news that his friend Reggie is moving away. But Reggie doesn't seem to mind at all; he keeps talking about the wonders of his new hometown. It is not until the actual departure that he shows the real sorrow that he was trying so hard to hide. But Ira and Reggie will soon be spending the weekend together. Funny and poignant.

Non-fiction

Brown, Laurie Krasny and Marc Brown. *When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death.*

A very simple book, with cartoon-like drawings of dinosaurs, deals with many aspects of death. The meaning of death, how to act with friends, how to remember the dead, and the variety of feelings are just some of the topics. A very useful, non-threatening book for young readers, preschool and up.

Krementz, Jill. *How It Feels When A Parent Dies.*

A series of interviews with children aged seven through sixteen whose parents have died is distinguished by its respectful tone and serious consideration of the problems of the survivors. It is clear that children and young people have widely varying reactions to a parent's death and the book makes clear that there is no one correct reaction. Fine photographs of the children add another dimension. Excellent.

Moutoussamy-Ashe, Jeanne. *Daddy and Me.*

The author, a photographer and the wife of famous tennis pro Arthur Ashe, who suffered from AIDS contracted through a blood transfusion, chronicles his relationship with his daughter, Camera. The photographs, which show their affection and support for each other in the face of his fatal affliction, are an inspiring testament to love.

Ann A. Flowers
March 22, 1998

Ann Flowers was children's librarian in Wayland for almost 25 years. Her other experience includes: Instructor in Children's Literature at Simmons College; editor, "Horn Book Guide to Children's and Young Adult Books, 1989-1992"; and Chair, Boston Globe Horn Book Awards, 1983 and 1996.

Deborah Marshall, MA, ATR started the HEARTplay™ program at Parmenter Community Health Care in 1995. Deborah retired in 2012. This bibliography is a part of the invaluable contribution she made to our community and the many families and children she served.

DEVELOPMENTAL AGES AND POSSIBLE REACTIONS TO DEATH AND LOSS

The Dougy Center

AGE	THINK	FEEL	DO
3 – 5 years (preschool)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss is temporary and reversible • finality of loss is not evident • death mixed up with trips, sleep • may wonder what the deceased is doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sad • anxious • withdrawn • confused about changes • angry • scared • cranky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cry • fight • interested in dead things • act as if the death never happened
6 – 9 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about the finality of loss • about the biological processes of death • death is related to mutilation • a spirit gets you when die • their actions and words caused the loss • who will care for them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sad • withdrawn • confused • angry • scared • cranky 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aggressive acts • behave withdrawn • nightmares • act as if the death never happened • lack concentration • have a decline in grades
9 – 12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about and understand the finality of loss • loss is hard to talk about • death may happen again and feel anxious • about loss with humor • who will take care of them after the loss • their actions and words caused the death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vulnerable • anxious • scared • lonely • confused • angry • sad • abandoned • guilty • fearful • worried 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • act aggressively • behave withdrawn • talk about physical aspects of death • act like it never happened • nightmares • lack concentration • have a decline in grades
teenagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the finality of death • if they show their feelings they will be weak • they need to be in control of their feelings • about death with humor • only about life before or after the loss • their actions or words caused the death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vulnerable • anxious • scared • lonely • confused • angry • sad • abandoned • guilty • fearful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • act aggressively • behave withdrawn • allow themselves to be in danger • grieve for what might have been • nightmares • lack concentration • have a decline in grades