

Books on Death for Age 13 –16 Years



Double Act

By Jacqueline Wilson & illustrated by Nick Sharratt, 1996
Corgi Children's, ISBN: 0440863341 (Also on audiocassette)

Ruby and Garnet are 10-year-old twins. They do everything together, especially since their mum died three years ago. When their dad finds a new partner and they move house, Ruby and Garnet find it hard and get into all sorts of trouble. Eventually, they settle down and learn to live with the changes. A lively and humorous book that deals sensitively with change.

Dustbin Baby

By Jacqueline Wilson, 2002
Corgi Children's, ISBN: 0552547964 (Also on audiocassette)

April was abandoned in a dustbin as a baby on the 1st April. Having spent all her life in a children's home and with different foster parents (one of whom committed suicide), things haven't been easy and April is struggling. Now she's fourteen and on her birthday, determined to find out more about her past, sets off to find some important people. This is an emotive book with a great storyline in usual Jacqueline Wilson style. It is open and honest.

Say Goodnight Gracie

J Reece Deaver, 1992
Pan MacMillan, ISBN: 0330310518

17year old Morgan has to adjust after losing her friend Jimmy in a car accident killed by a drunk driver.

Straight Talk About Death for Teenagers

By Earl A. Grollman, 1999
How to Cope with Losing Someone You Love Sagebrush Ed Resources, ISBN: 0785719873

This book was written after the author spoke to thousands of teenagers and found they often felt forgotten after someone has died. Written in short, clear sentences that are easy to read, it covers feelings, different types of death and the future. This book gives the reader many options of what can happen, how s/he may feel, giving advice and reassuring readers grief is normal.

The Charlie Barber Treatment

By Carole Lloyd, 1990
Walker Books, ISBN: 0744514886

Simon's Mum died suddenly from a brain haemorrhage and he came home from school to find she had died. With his GCSE coursework piling up and having to help around the house, Simon

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finds it hard and doesn't go out much with his friends. He then meets Charlie, who is visiting her Grandma, and believes their meeting was fate. Simon starts to enjoy life again and to re-build relationships with his family and friends. A sensitive and realistic book that conveys some of the thoughts and emotions of a teenage boy.

The Lost Boys' Appreciation Society

By Alan Gibbons, 2004

Orion Children's Books, ISBN: 1842550950

Teenage life is difficult enough for Gary and John, but when their Mum dies in a car accident, things get steadily worse. John struggles to keep the peace as Gary goes off the rails, saying his new mates are now his family. With GCSE exams looming and his Dad going out on dates, things become unbearable for John. A gripping book exploring relationships and how different people react to life events.

The Man who didn't want to die

Retold by Sherab Chodzin & Alexandra Kohn from The Barefoot Book of Buddhist Tales

Illustrated by Marie Cameron, 1999 Barefoot Books, ISBN: 1841480096

This short story is based on a Japanese folk tale and approaches death from an unusual angle. When a man decides he doesn't want to die, he is sent to the Land of Never-ending Life and expects to meet the happiest people in the world. However, the realities of living forever are not as attractive as he thought and he consequently learns an important lesson. This story is very thought provoking and could lead to some interesting discussions.

The Spying Game

By Pat Moon, 2003

Orchard Books, ISBN: 1843622017

Joe's dad died in a car accident and he feels really angry towards the man who killed his father. He decides to set up a secret 'Nightmare Plan' to vent his anger and begins to persecute the man and his family by scratching his car and sending hate mail. This powerful book reveals the difficult emotions Joe faces both at home and at school. A very readable and fast paced book that would appeal to many young people.

Two Weeks with the Queen

By Morris Gleitzman & illustrated by Andy Bacha, 1999

Puffin Books, ISBN: 014130300X

Twelve-year-old Colin, an Australian boy, is sent to stay with relatives in England when his brother becomes ill with cancer. He is determined to find a way of curing his brother, which leads him

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into all sorts of adventures including trying to visit the Queen! Colin finds a friend in an older man named Ted who helps him express his feelings and understand what he has to do. (Also on audiocassette.)

Up on Cloud Nine

By Anne Fine, 2003

Corgi Childrens, ISBN: 0552548405

Stol falls out of a top floor window and ends up unconscious in hospital with lots of broken bones and no-one knows whether it was attempted suicide or an accident. This book is written from the perspective of his best friend Ian whilst he is sitting by his bedside. He recalls all the fun times they have had together as well as acknowledging the slightly different way Stol sees the world. Ian captures the emotions of his own adoptive parents as well as Stol's family and the hospital staff in an amusing yet moving way illustrating how Stol has had an inspirational effect on everyone. (Also available in audiocassette)

Vicky Angel

By Jacqueline Wilson & illustrated by Nick Sharratt, 2001

Corgi Childrens, ISBN: 0440864151

When Jade's best friend Vicky, is run over by a car and dies in hospital everyone at home and school starts treating her differently. 'Vicky Angel' then starts following Jade around, distracting her and getting her into trouble. This moving but amusing story illustrates how hard it is to carry on with every day life after a tragic accident. (Also available in audiocassette)

And When Did You Last See Your Father

By Blake Morrison, 2006

Granta Books, ISBN: 978-1862079083

The book tells of how Dr Morrisons life slowly slips away during the last few weeks of his life. Interspersed with this are the authors recollections of his father, who whilst being a difficult man at times, always remained a loving husband and father. The author is at all times open and honest - sometimes brutally so - and lays open his feelings for all to share.

One of the strengths of the book is that whilst it is about the death of a loved one it never gets too mawkish or sentimental and remains at all times a good read