

# Books on Death for Age 5 - 8 Years



## **A Birthday Present for Daniel**

Juliet Rothman, 2001 A Child's Story of Loss  
Prometheus Books, ISBN: 978-1573929462

Told by a young girl whose brother, Daniel, has died, she talks about how things have changed in the family. She also talks about the things she does when she is sad and how these differ from other members of her family. This book has small black and white pictures with minimal text but it conveys some important issues. It would be particularly useful to broach the subject of birthdays as it describes how the family remembered Daniel on his birthday.

## **Always and Forever**

By Alan Durant & illustrated by Debi Gliori, 2003 (h'back)  
ISBN: 978-0552548779

Otter, Mole and Hare miss Fox when he falls ill and dies. They stay at home and don't want to talk about him because it makes them sadder. Then Squirrel visits and reminds them of all the fun times they had together. They all find a way to remember Fox and get on with their lives. Colourful, detailed pictures in this book emphasise the importance of holding on to memories.

## **Badger's Parting Gifts**

By Susan Varley, 1992  
Picture Lions, ISBN: 0006643175

Badger is old and knows he is going to die soon. When he does, the other animals think they will be sad forever, but they begin to talk about the memories they have of the things Badger taught them and learn to cope with his death. A lovely picture book that emphasises the importance of remembering the person who has died.

## **Charlotte's Web**

E B White, 1993  
Penguin, ISBN: 014036-4498

A wonderful story of Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider; it is all about friendship and the harsh realities of life. Poignant ending.

## **Drop Dead**

By Babette Cole, 1998  
Red Fox, ISBN: 0099659115

A humorous book with comic-like pictures, two 'bald old wrinklies' tell their grandchildren about their life growing up and how one day they will just drop down dead. It is a light-hearted book

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about life that emphasises the normality and inevitability of dying. It is very direct and some readers may not like its style.

## **Flamingo Dream**

By Donna Jo Napoli & illustrated by Cathie Felstead, 2003  
Greenwillow Books, ISBN: 978-0688167967

In this bright and colourful book, a young boy tells the story of his Dad who is seriously ill and dies soon after a trip to Florida to see the place where he grew up. The collage style illustrations capture the things the boy collects to remind him of his Dad. A sensitive but honest book which emphasises the importance of memories.

## **Fred**

By Posy Simmonds, 1998  
Red Fox, ISBN: 0099264129

A light-hearted book with detailed illustrations about Fred, Nick and Sophie's lazy cat that dies. After burying him in the garden, they wake up at night to find all the cats in the area have come to say goodbye to Fred, the famous singer! This funny and touching story would be useful to introduce death to children.

## **Granpa – The Book of the Film**

Based on the story by John Burningham, 1990  
A Red Fox Picture Book, ISBN: 0099752409

This beautifully detailed picture book has very few words but tells the story of a little girl's relationship with her Granpa. It takes the reader through many happy times they spent together playing games, telling stories and on outings. On the last page, Granpa's chair is empty, signifying that he has died. Children may benefit from reading this book with an adult to talk about the pictures and to elaborate some of the messages it conveys.

## **Heaven**

Written and Illustrated by Nicholas Allan  
ISBN: 978-0099488149

Dill, the dog, knows his time is up, so he packs his case and tells Lily, his owner, that he's off "up there." "Can I come too?" asks Lily. "Er...not yet," replies Dill. While he is waiting for the angels to collect him, Dill explains to Lily what he thinks heaven is like: hundreds of lampposts to pee against, lots of whiffy things to smell and bones everywhere - with meat on them! But, Lily completely disagrees, she thinks heaven is quite different. Luckily, they agree to disagree just in time for a fond, and very poignant, last goodbye.

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## **Help Me Say Goodbye**

J Silverman, 1999

Fairview Press, ISBN: 1-57749-085-1

Activity workbook to help when someone has died.

## **Laura's Star**

Baumgart, K – 1996

Tiger Press, ISBN 1-85430-480-1

In this classic magical story a lonely girl learns that friendship means letting go of your most precious treasures.

## **Muddles Puddles and Sunshine**

D Crossley, 2000, Winstons Wish

Hawthorn Press, ISBN: 1-86989058-2

An activity book to help a child when someone has died

## **Sad Isn't Bad**

Michaelene Mundy

University of Massachusetts Press ISBN: 0870293214

A good – grief guide for children dealing with loss.

## **Saying Goodbye to Daddy**

By Judith Vigna, 1991 (h'back)

Albert Whitman & Company, ISBN: 978-0807572535

Clare's Dad died in a car accident and this book looks at changes in the family, difficult feelings, funerals and memories through the eyes of Clare. It would also be a good book to help parents understand the child's perspective. It gives good examples of how adults can answer children's questions, emphasising the need to be clear and honest.

## **The Huge Bag of Worries**

By Virginia Ironside & illustrated by Frank Rodgers, 1996

Hodder Wayland, ISBN: 0-75002-124-1

Jenny begins to worry about lots of different things and these worries build up and get out of control. She just can't get rid of them, until she meets the old lady next door who helps her feel better. A lovely story with fun illustrations encourages children to talk about their worries.

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## **The Sunshine Cat**

Written by Miriam Moss, Illustrated by Lisa Flather  
ISBN: 978-1841215679 Orchard Picturebooks

Sunny the cat is loved by all his human family, but one day there is a knock at the door - Sunny has been killed in an accident. A sensitive story which aims to help children come to terms with death.

## **The Tenth Good Thing About Barney**

By Judith Viorst & illustrated by Erik Blegvad, 1987  
Prentice Hall & IBD, ISBN: 978-0689712036

A young boy's cat dies and his parents suggest that he could think of ten good things about Barney to tell at the funeral. But he can only think of nine, until he talks to his Father about what happens to someone after they have died, and he discovers the tenth. A carefully written book with black and white pictures, that sensitively deals with death and lets the reader make his or her own decisions about what happens after the funeral.

## **When Dinosaurs Die**

By Laurie Krasny & illustrated by Marc Brown, 1998  
A Guide to Understanding Death Time Warner Trade Publishing, ISBN: 0316119555

This factual picture book uses cartoon dinosaurs to illustrate the text and comment on what is said. It is a bright and colourful book that explains death in a simple and unthreatening way. It covers many issues including 'why does someone die?', 'feelings about death' and 'saying goodbye'. It would be an excellent resource for anyone caring for young children.