

Books on Death for Age 9 –12 Years



After the Funeral

J Winsch, 1995

Paulist Press, ISBN: 0-8091-6625-9

Discusses the various feelings accompanying the death of a loved one including sadness, grief and the fear of death itself

Beginnings and Endings with Lifetimes in Between

By Bryan Mellonie & Robert Ingpen, 1997

A beautiful way to explain life and death to children Belitha Press, ISBN: 1855617609

This thought provoking book has large pictures complemented with small sections of text. It clearly explains about life and death focussing on plants, animals and insects before moving on to people. It emphasises that death is part of the life cycle and is natural and normal whenever it occurs. A simple book with a powerful message.

Bridge to Terabithia

K Patterson, 1995

Puffin Books; ISBN: 014-0366180

The story of the friendship of two 10 year olds and one dies in an accident. DVD also available.

Death

J Amos, 1997

Cherry Tree Books ISBN: 184234-163-4

Stories based on death supported by a selection of letters from the characters airing their problems and worries, with reassuring replies from family and friends, as well as practical advice.

Death: What's Happening?

By Karen Bryant –Mole, 1994

Hodder Wayland, ISBN: 0750213795

This factual book has clear text and large photos. It uses stories of young people to discuss issues surrounding death such as feeling frightened, the funeral and the future. It includes advice on how to feel better and cope with difficult situations after someone has died. Using straightforward language, this book may reassure the reader there are other young people who have had someone important to them die and answer some of their questions and concerns.

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The Cat Mummy

By Jacqueline Wilson & illustrated by Nick Sharratt, 2002
Corgi Childrens, ISBN: 978-0440864165 (also on audiocassette)

Verity's Mum died the day she was born but she rarely talks about her. Verity doesn't want to upset her Dad or Grandparents. This humorous but sensitive story mainly focuses on Verity's missing cat Mabel but reveals some of the misunderstandings and anxieties children can have about death. It also shows it can be good to be open, honest and to talk about difficult issues.

The Ghost of Uncle Arvie

By Sharon Creech, 1997
Macmillan Children's Books, ISBN: 978-0333656327

This fun and humorous book is about Danny, an ordinary nine-year-old boy. However, once or twice a year a ghost visits him. This time it is the ghost of his Uncle Arvie who follows him, persuading him to make his three wishes come true. As a result Danny and his dog get into adventures which makes him think about his dad who has also died. This book has some important messages and talks about death in an open way, but is primarily fun and imaginative.

The Mountains of Tibet

By Mordicai Gerstein, 1989
Barefoot Paperbacks, ISBN: 978-1898000549

Based on Tibetan teachings, this book tells of a small boy who grows up to be a woodcutter. When he dies, he discovers there is a chance to live again but first he must make a number of choices. A simple tale with deep meaning but the theme of reincarnation could be confusing.

John's Book

J Fuller, 1993
Lutterworth Press ISBN: 071-882-8704

A novel designed to help children come to terms with the death of a parent. John's father died and through the story the author tackles emotions, funeral, grief, anger, bewilderment and facing ones peers.

Losing Uncle Tim

By Mary Kate Jordan & illustrated by Judith Friedman, 1999
Albert Whitman & Company, ISBN: 978-0807547564

This picture book for slightly older children explains how a young boy finds out his Uncle Tim has AIDS and is going to die. It is a serious and sensitive book covering many of the issues, changes and difficult feelings that can occur when someone has a serious illness.

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Michael Rosen's SAD BOOK

By Michael Rosen & illustrated by Quentin Blake, 2004
Walker Books, ISBN: 0744598982

This book has large illustrations and small snippets of text. It is wonderfully honest and will appeal to children and adults of all ages. We all have sad stuff, but what makes Michael Rosen most sad is thinking about his son who died. This book is a simple but emotive story. He talks about what sad is and how it affects him and what he does to cope with it. In true Michael Rosen style, this book manages to make you smile as well.

Milly's Bug Nut

By Jill Janey, 2002
Winston's Wish, ISBN: 978-0-9539123-4-6

A short, simple story with black and white pictures, of a young girl who's Dad has died. It talks about the ups and downs of family life and how things slowly get easier as time goes. Milly misses her Dad and things are just not the same anymore. She knows when people die, they can't come back but she still keeps a wish to see her Dad one more time.

The Best Day of the Week

By Hannah Cole & illustrated by John Prater, 1997
Walker Books, ISBN: 0744554675

This storybook tells of two young children who spend Saturdays with their Grandparents when Mum is at work. It has three chapters, with stories of three different Saturdays. The first is a happy day; the second is at the hospital and sad as Granny dies, the third at the theatre. It is a lovely story that gives an important message that it is still okay to have fun after someone dies.

There's NO Such Thing as a Dragon

By Jack Kent ISBN: 0-307-10214-9
Golden Books Publishing Company

There's No Such Thing as a Dragon (1975) by Jack Kent, part of the Family Storytime series, relates the charming tale of Billy Bixbee, who awakens to find a dragon "about the size of a kitten" sitting on his bed. The dragon grows by leaps and bounds, until Billy dares to pet the attention-seeking creature and it shrinks back down into an adoring little lap dragon.

Water Bugs and Dragonflies

By Doris Stickney & illustrated by Gloria Stickney, 1983
Explaining death to children Continuum International Pub Group, ISBN: 0264669045

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This pocket size booklet with small black and white pictures is based on a fable, associating death with a water bug's transformation into a dragonfly. It portrays the mystery around death but may need an adult to explain the analogy and help a child relate it to their own experience. It uses Christian beliefs with a focus on life after death and also contains advice for parents.

What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?

By Trevor Romain, 1999

Free Spirit Publishing Inc, ISBN: 1575420554

This book for older children is a factual guide, answering questions such as 'why do people have to die?', 'is it okay to cry?' and 'what is a funeral/memorial service?' It is written in a straightforward way, with practical tips, advice and information about different faiths and beliefs.

When Someone Very Special Dies

M Heegaard, 1988

Woodland Press, USA ISBN: 0-9620502-0-2

Workbook