

# Children's Books About Death

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## Introducing the Concept of a Lifetime

### [Children also grieve: talking about death and healing](#)

by Goldman, Linda

**J 155.937 GOL**

*An illustrated, interactive storybook for bereaved children and those who care for them that follows Henry's progress through the different stages of bereavement and healing. (Told from the family pet's perspective)*

### [Death and dying](#)

by Sanders, Pete

**J 155.937 SAN**

*Explores the feelings and issues that may arise after the death of a loved one and the importance of confronting such issues.*

### [Lifetimes : a beautiful way to explain death to children](#)

by Mellonie, Bryan

**J 306.9 MEL**

*Tells about beginnings and endings, and about living in between for plants, animals and people.*

### [Ricky and the squirrel](#)

by Genechten, Guido van

**JEASY GEN**

*While looking for chestnuts in the woods, Ricky finds a squirrel lying on the ground. Is he sleeping? Is he ill? Ricky's mother and father know the answer.*

### [The dead bird](#)

by Brown, Margaret Wise

**JEASY BRO**

*When they find a dead bird, a group of children bury it in the woods, sing a song to it, and put flowers on the grave.*

### [The fall of Freddie the leaf : a story of life for all ages](#)

by Buscaglia, Leo

**JEASY BUS**

*An allegory explaining the endless cycle of life describes how Freddie and the other leaves change with the seasons.*

### [The goodbye book](#)

by Parr, Todd

**JEASY PAR**

*Illustrations and brief text relate how a person might feel when they lose someone they love.*

[When dinosaurs die: a guide to understanding death](#)

by Brown, Laurie Krasny

**J 155.937 BRO**

*Explains in simple language the feelings people may have regarding the death of a loved one and the ways to honor the memory of someone who has died.*

**Death of a Pet or Other Animal**

[Alfie and the birthday surprise](#)

by Hughes, Shirley

**JEASY HUG**

*The death of Bob's cat prompts his friends and family to give Bob a surprise birthday party and a very special present.*

[Desser the best ever cat](#)

by Smith, Maggie

**JEASY SMI**

*A child describes how Desser the Cat had always been part of the family and how much he was loved even after he died.*

[Goodbye, Mousie](#)

by Harris, Robie H

**JEASY HAR**

*A boy grieves for his dead pet Mousie, helps to bury him, and begins to come to terms with his loss.*

[Harry and Hopper](#)

by Wild, Margaret

**JEASY WIL**

*One day when Harry comes home from school, his faithful companion Hopper isn't there to greet him, in a touching story about the loss of a beloved pet.*

[I'll always love you](#)

by Wilhelm, Hans

**JEASY WIL**

*A child's sadness at the death of a beloved dog is tempered by the remembrance of saying to it every night, "I'll always love you."*

[Saying goodbye to Lulu](#)

by Demas, Corinne

**JEASY DEM**

*When her dog Lulu dies, a girl grieves but then continues with her life.*

[The Best cat in the world](#)

by Newman, Leslea

**JEASY NEW**

*A young boy deals with the loss of his beloved cat Charlie, eventually accepting the arrival of another, very different cat.*

[The Forever dog](#)

by Cochran, Bill

**JEASY COC**

*Mike and his dog Corky plan to be best friends forever, so when Corky becomes sick and dies, Mike is angry about the broken promise.*

[The Old dog](#)

by Zolotow, Charlotte

**JEASY ZOL**

*When a young boy finds his old dog dead one morning, he spends the rest of the day thinking about all the good times they had together.*

[The Tenth good thing about Barney](#)

by Viorst, Judith

**JEASY VIO**

*In an attempt to overcome his grief, a boy tries to think of the ten best things about his dead cat.*

[Tough Boris](#)

by Fox, Mem

**JEASY**

*Although he is a very tough pirate, Boris von der Borch cries when his parrots dies.*

[Up in heaven](#)

by Chichester Clark, Emma

**JEASY CHI**

*When Arthur's dog Daisy dies, she watches over him from heaven and eventually helps him find a new puppy.*

[When a pet dies](#)

by Rogers, Fred

**J 155.937 ROG**

*Explores the feelings of frustration, sadness, and loneliness that a youngster may feel when a pet dies.*

**Death of a Friend**

[A Story for Hippo: a book about loss](#)

by Puttock, Simon

**JEASY PUT**

*Hippo and Monkey are best, best, best friends and when the wise old Hippo dies, Monkey is very sad until Chameleon helps him remember the stories he and Hippo shared.*

[Always and forever](#)

by Durant, Alan

**JEASY DUR**

*Mole, Hare, and Otter are devastated when their beloved friend Fox dies. Squirrel helps them to realize that Fox will always and forever be in their hearts and memories.*

[Badger's parting gifts](#)

by Varley, Susan

**JEASY VAR**

*Badger's friends are sad when he dies, but they treasure the legacies he left them.*

[City dog, country frog](#)

by Willems, Mo

**JEASY WIL**

*Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country, he runs straight for Country Frog's rock to play games with him, but during the winter things change for them both.*

[Ida, always](#)

by Levis, Caron

**JEASY LEV**

*A polar bear grieves over the loss of his companion, based on the real-life Gus and Ida of New York's Central Park Zoo.*

**Death of a Grandparent**[A Campfire for Cowboy Billy](#)

by Ulmer, Wendy K.

**JEASY ULM**

*After a day of riding his stick horse, Splinter, across an imaginary landscape, Billy returns to the rooftop of his apartment to sit beneath the stars and remember Grandpa.*

[Ghost wings](#)

by Joosse, Barbara M.

**JEASY**

*While celebrating the Days of the Dead, a young Mexican girl remembers her wonderful grandmother who sang songs, made tortillas, chased monsters away, and loved butterflies.*

[Grandma lives in a perfume village](#)

by Fang, Suzhen

**JEASY FAN**

*Xiao Le's grandmother lives in a faraway village. A visit with Grandma is always a special event, but this time she is frail. With encouragement from his mom, Xiao Le plays with and helps Grandma. When Grandma dies shortly thereafter, Xiao Le comforts his mom--reminding her that when it rains, Grandma is washing her clothes in the sky ... and that although the Perfume Village in heaven cannot be reached by train, it can be accessed by the heart.*

[Grandma's purple flowers](#)

by Burrowes, Adjoa J.

**JEASY BUR**

*Hyacinth's grandmother explains that leaves fall and die because "everything has its time." After her grandmother becomes ill and dies during the winter, Hyacinth finds a way to cope in the spring, thanks to grandma's purple flowers.*

[Grandma's shoes](#)

by Hathorn, Libby

**JEASY HAT**

*The grandmother's stories and her magic shoes help a young girl cope with the old woman's death.*

[Grandpa Abe](#)

by Russo, Marisabina

**JEASY RUS**

*Her grandmother's boyfriend becomes Sarah's grandfather by marriage. Until his death when she is nine, Sarah and Grandpa Abe share many favorite things, like spaghetti.*

[Kaddish for Grandpa in Jesus' name, amen](#)

by Howe, James

**JEASY HOW**

*Five-year-old Emily tries to understand her grandfather's death by exploring the Christian and Jewish rituals that her family practices during and after his death.*

[Liplap's wish](#)

by London, Jonathan

**JEASY LON**

*As he builds a snowman, Liplap feels something is missing and wishes his grandmother, who recently died, was with him.*

[Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs](#)

by De Paola, Tomie

**JEASY DEP**

*A small boy enjoys his relationship with his grandmother and his great-grandmother, but he learns to face their inevitable death.*

[Old Pig](#)

by Wild, Margaret

**JEASY WIL**

*Old Pig spends special time with her granddaughter because she knows that her time to die is near.*

[Remembering Grandma = Recordando a Abuela](#)

by Armas, Teresa

**JEASY SP ARM**

*Lorena, who also misses her grandmother, hopes that the keepsakes in Grandma's carved chest will help ease Mama and Grandpa's grief.*

[The Goodbye boat](#)

by Joslin, Mary

**JEASY JOS**

*The author wrote this book to help her children cope with saying goodbye when their grandfather dies and to provide them with a message of hope.*

[The Grandad tree](#)

by Cooke, Trish

**JEASY COO**

*The changing nature of their apple tree, as it grows and goes through the seasons, reminds Leigh and Vin of their grandfather, who is gone, but lives on in their memories.*

[The Language of doves](#)

by Wells, Rosemary

## **JEASY WEL**

*Through her grandfather's stories, Julietta finds that she is linked to her beloved grandfather forever.*

### [The Two of them](#)

by Alik

## **JEASY ALI**

*Describes the relationship of a grandfather and his granddaughter from her birth to his death.*

### [What's heaven](#)

by Shriver, Maria

## **JEASY SHR**

*After her great-grandmother's death, a young girl learns about heaven by asking her mother all kinds of questions.*

### [Where is Grandpa?](#)

by Barron, T. A.

## **JEASY BAR**

*As his family reminisces after his beloved grandfather's death, a boy realizes that his grandfather is still with him in all the special places they shared.*

## **Death of a Parent**

### [Anna's Heaven](#)

by Hole, Stian

*After the death of her mother, Anna and her father imagine that Heaven might be a place where one can help in God's garden, visit with old friends, and take off one's socks whenever one pleases.*

### [Everett Anderson's goodbye](#)

by Clifton, Lucille

## **JEASY CLI**

*Everett Anderson has a difficult time coming to terms with his grief after his father dies.*

### [Flamingo dream](#)

by Napoli, Donna Jo

## **J PIC+ NAP**

*Grieving over her father's death from cancer, a young girl celebrates their last year together by making a book that includes mementos and a story.*

### [My Father's Arms Are a Boat](#)

by Lunde, Stein Erik

*Unable to sleep, a young boy climbs into his father's arms and asks about birds, foxes, and whether his mother will ever awaken. Then, under a starry sky, the father provides clear answers and assurances.*

### [The Scar](#)

by Moundlic, Charlotte

*When his mother dies, a little boy is angry at his loss but does everything he can to hold onto the*

*memory of her scent, her voice, and the special things she did for him, even as he tries to help his father and grandmother cope.*

## **Death of a Relative**

### [Tiger flowers](#)

by Quinlan, Patricia

#### **JEASY QUI**

*Joel is heartsick when his uncle Michael dies with AIDS, until he learns to comfort himself with good memories, like his uncle's favorite flowers, the tiger flowers.*

### [When Auntie Mattie Got Her Wings](#)

by Mathers, Petra

*When Aunt Mattie dies, best friends Lottie and Herbie console each other and celebrate Aunt Mattie's life by scattering her ashes and preparing her favorite snack--peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (with bananas).*

## **Failing Health or Terminal Illness**

### [Dancing with Dziadziu](#)

by Bartoletti, Susan

*A young girl shares her ballet dancing with her dying grandmother and the grandmother shares memories of her family's immigration from Poland and of dancing with the girl's grandfather.*

### [Forget me Not](#)

by Van Laan, Nancy

*Young Julia comes to terms with the changes in her beloved grandmother, whose Alzheimer's Disease makes it hard for her to remember people and things.*

### [Gentle Willow](#)

by Mills, Joyce C.

*Amanda the squirrel is upset that she is going to lose her friend Gentle Willow, but the tree wizards give advice that help both her and Gentle Willow accept the change that comes with death.*

### [Swan sky](#)

by Tejima, Keizaburo

#### **JEASY TEJ**

*Too ill to fly with her family to their summer home, a young swan must remain behind despite their attention and encouragement.*

### [The Purple balloon](#)

by Raschka, Chris

#### **JEASY RAS**

*Easy to read text reveals that dying is hard work, for the old and especially for the young, and how good it is that so many people help when a person dies*

## What's Happening to Grandpa?

by Shriver, Maria

*Kate has always adored her grandpa's storytelling - but lately he's been repeating the same stories again and again. One day he even forgets Kate's name. Her mother's patient explanations open Kate's eyes to what so many of the elderly must confront: Alzheimer's disease and other forms of memory loss.*