

Ouachita Baptist University

Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

Honors Theses

Carl Goodson Honors Program

1999

Death in Children's Literature: A User's Guide

Jennifer M. Collier

Ouachita Baptist University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/honors_theses



Part of the [Children's and Young Adult Literature Commons](#), and the [Counseling Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Collier, Jennifer M., "Death in Children's Literature: A User's Guide" (1999). *Honors Theses*. 101.
https://scholarlycommons.obu.edu/honors_theses/101

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Carl Goodson Honors Program at Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors Theses by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita. For more information, please contact mortensona@obu.edu.

SENIOR THESIS APPROVAL

This Honors thesis entitled

“Death in Children’s Literature: A User’s Guide”

written by

Jennifer M. Collier

and submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for completion of the
Carl Goodson Honors Program
meets the criteria for acceptance
and has been approved by the undersigned readers.

thesis director

second reader

third reader

honors program director

April 19, 1999

Death in Children's Literature: A User's Guide

**A Thesis Presented In
Fulfillment of the
Carl Goodson Honors Program**

**Jennifer Collier
April 19, 1999**

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Introduction	6
Death of Self	13
Death of Parent/Sibling	17
Death of Relative/Friend	30
Death of a Pet	40
Death Due to Tragedy	44
General Books on Death	49
Quick Reference Guide	55

Preface

I am often asked the topic of my Senior Thesis; after my response I am usually asked, "Why?" Why would anyone want to look at children's books that deal with the subject of death? There are many reasons why I decided to study children's books that have death as a primary or secondary theme. I am planning on becoming a pediatrician and I hope to be working with dying children and their families. My interest in working with dying children is partly due to my father's wisdom. He encouraged me when I began my pre-medical studies to consider looking into how children relate to death because he felt that it would be useful knowledge in my future career. As I began to study the different ways that children deal with death, I realized that my heart went out to children who have to face the death of someone close to them. At that moment I knew that I wanted to work with dying children and their families.

My love for children's books led me to begin exploring the subject of death within the literature. While searching for children's books that dealt with death as a primary or secondary theme, I realized how useful a guide to these books would be to parents, physicians, teachers and anyone working with a child facing some kind of death. It is hard for us to explain to children about death because it is hard to understand and accept, and we do not want to upset the children. Children's books that deal with death provide a means for opening the lines of communication between an adult and child about the subject. They also provide a useful tool for educating children about death before it confronts them. Therefore, a guide to children's literature on death would be

very helpful to parents, teachers, physicians, chaplains and people who work with children.

Many of the books presented in this guide deal with a specific culture or ethnic group. I found this very interesting. Different cultures and ethnic groups have different attitudes about death. I grew up in Brazil, in a culture not so different from the American culture, but with very different attitudes about death. In Brazil, death is more accepted as part of the way of life. It is not hidden and separated from day-to-day life. It is my opinion that the American culture, in general, attempts to protect itself from the realities of death. So many people die in hospitals, surrounded by machines that attempt to defy death. When death comes it seems too artificial. We do everything we can to postpone death, which is not bad in and of itself, but there comes a point when death cannot be avoided. We have done away with the dignity of death. It is this attempt to protect ourselves from death that has caused so many children to not have the opportunity to be educated about death in a healthy way.

When I decided to create this guide, I did not want it to be merely a listing of all of the books I had found and read. I wanted it to provide useful information that would help whoever was using it to find the appropriate book for their particular situation. In order to do this, I created six broad categories by which to classify the books. Some of these categories are further broken down into sub-categories because of the breadth. I also decided to indicate the specific type of death that is discussed in each book. I decided to pinpoint the view of death that each book presents because there are so many religious beliefs and views on death in our society today. I wanted my guide to be applicable to a wide range of people and not limited to those of a certain persuasion. The way in which

each book presents the subject of death is also provided, so that whoever is using the guide will have an idea of the book's content. The final aspect which I felt needed to be in the guide was the book's targeted ages of audience. All of these aspects were put into this guide of children's literature on death so users can carefully select books to fit their specific needs.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Children are so young and full of life. They have so much to learn; the world is full of learning experiences just waiting to be discovered by them. Unfortunately some of the lessons that children must learn on their road to adulthood are not fun and easy, such as, learning responsibility and learning that life is not always fair. It would be so nice to be able to shield children from these difficult lessons, yet they are just as necessary as the other ones if children are to grow up into healthy adults. Some of the most difficult lessons that life teaches is that of death; it is a lesson that all continue to encounter throughout life. Still some might think that death is too painful a subject to teach to children. They might ask, with good reason: why should children have to learn about death? Why must they have to experience the painful realities of losing a loved one, or even more terrible, their own death? Besides, are children concerned with death at all? Do they not have other things to think about? Are children too young to understand death? It is these questions that lead parents, teachers, chaplains and adults in general to try and protect children from the harsh realities of death. Their instincts tell them to protect the children; this is a lesson that can be learned later, when they are older. Yet, teaching children about death is very important.

Adults may not realize that children are confronted with death and death-related issues almost every day. It is impossible to completely shield children from death; they will encounter it somehow, someday. They see it on television, in movies and in cartoons that they watch. Not only do they see it in impersonal situations, most children will experience the death of a pet during their childhood. Something that belonged to them is no longer alive. Others will experience the loss of a grandparent, parent, sibling or friend;

someone they knew is dead. In an even more personal way, some will face their own death due to illness or some kind of severe injury.

Many adults do not realize that well-meaning adults create many of the misconceptions that children have about death. Some of these misconceptions stay in the mind of a child long into adulthood, sometimes throughout life. Some children are afraid to sleep after the death of someone they knew. When asked why they will state that it is because they were told that being dead is like being asleep; they are afraid that they will die also if they go to bed. For example, the book After Charlotte's Mom Died mentions that Charlotte is afraid to sleep at night because that is how her aunt explained death to her. It is only after a conversation with a counselor and her father that Charlotte realizes that being dead is not like being asleep. Other children are told that the deceased person had to go on a big trip as an explanation for his or her death. Children then expect the person to come back and can become very frustrated when he or she does not. The intentions of the person who explained the death of a loved one in these ways is not to hurt the children. Many adults do not know how to tell a child about a death. In most cases the adult is also dealing with his or her own grief and is also trying to understand.

One of the biggest excuses for not talking to children about death is that they are too young to understand. A child might not be able to understand at the same level as an adult, but if death is explained with the level of cognitive development of the child in mind, they can understand it to some degree. Many studies describe the development of death-related concepts in childhood. There are several stages that a child will go through in his or her understanding of death. According to Maria Nagy there are three stages of development: Stage 1- there is no definitive death, Stage 2- personification of death, and

Stage 3- the cessation of bodily activities. For children in Stage 1, death is seen as temporary or as a different place that someone goes. Stage 2 children personify death; they see it as a separate person who can be avoided. These children have accepted the finality of death, but see it as something that can be escaped. Children who have reached Stage 3 accept the finality, universality, and inevitable nature of death.¹

The progression through the stages of the development of death-related concepts varies from child to child. A general breakdown by age is as follows: Stage 1- children less than five years old, Stage 2- children ages five to nine, and Stage 3- children older than nine years old. Many factors contribute to the child's perception of these concepts. The child's socialization plays a part. For children growing up in relatively non-violent communities, the understanding might be slower. On the other hand, children who grow up in violent situations learn about the finality and inevitable nature of death sooner. Another factor is the child's parents. Children learn from watching their parents. If they see that their parents are uncomfortable talking about death, the children might get the idea that talking about death is not a good thing. Whether or not the child has experienced death first-hand also influences their development of death-related concepts. Children who have lost a loved one are more apt to understand death sooner than those who have not, especially if those children have an adult who has taken the time to answer their questions honestly.

Because of the experiences with death that all children will face and the misconceptions that they might have about death, there is a need for childhood death education. Death education can and should happen in the home. Parents are a child's best resource when it comes to learning many of the lessons of life. A child who has parents

who are willing to talk to him or her about death and answer any questions he or she might have will be able to develop healthy concepts of death. It is very important that this education occurs before a child is faced with the death of a loved one. If parents wait until the death of a loved one to talk to their child, the parents will find it more difficult. Not only are they dealing with their own grief, but they must also try to find a way to explain it to their child. A child who is prepared for the death of a loved one might be able to handle it better than a child who is not prepared. Home is not the only place where death education can take place. School and church can also be places of learning about death. Adults should always take advantage of teachable moments to educate children about death. For example, if a dead bird is encountered on a nature walk, the adult can use the moment to teach a brief lesson about death.

There are many ways that children can be taught about death. One of those ways is through books. Most children love to read books and listen to books. There are many books that deal with the subject of death. Some have death as their major subject; others deal with it on a secondary basis. There are fictional books in which a character in the book dies, non-fictional books about a person who dies, and informational books that provide helpful explanations to many of the questions that children may have. The books available today also deal with a large variety of deaths, ranging from the death of a grandparent to the death of a pet, and from death due to natural causes to death due to an accident or tragedy.

Several factors should be considered when choosing which books to read to a child. The age of the child is important. If the child has not experienced death on a first-hand basis and is still very young, it might be best to choose a book that has death as a

secondary subject. There is no need to bombard the child with a book that deals with death as a primary subject. One that has it as a secondary theme might open the doors for the child to ask questions that he or she might have. Another factor to consider is whether or not the child has experienced the death of a loved one, and if so, how recently. Some books address children who are experiencing grief due to the death of a loved one. Some books address children who are facing the impending death of a loved one due to illness. The level of understanding that the child has of death-related concepts is also an important factor. It is important to choose a book that is written on the level of understanding of the child. A book that is above his or her level of understanding could confuse him or her more and possibly create more misconceptions.

The purpose of this thesis is to provide a guide to the different types of children's books on death that are available for use today. This guide is for parents, teachers, chaplains, and anyone who works with children. These books can be used to educate children about death either before they are faced with death or after. The books are classified into six different categories: death of self, death of a parent or sibling, death of a relative or friend, death of a pet, death due to tragedy and general books on death. Some of the categories are divided further into sub-categories because they cover a broad spectrum. The specific death that occurs or is discussed in each book is listed, along with a brief synopsis of the way in which death is presented. The view that the book holds concerning death is also given, so that users can choose a book that is in agreement with their personal views and beliefs. The age group for which the book is appropriate is also included. All these aspects have been included to help the user choose books that will be best suited for the children with whom they are working.

Notes:

¹Nagy, Maria. "The Child's View of Death," *Journal of Genetic Psychology* 73 (1948): 3-27.

The book is about how people deal with the death of a loved one. The death of a child is a tragedy. The purpose of this book is to help people understand death and how to cope with it. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it.

Chapter 2: Death of Self

...the death of a child and how to cope with it. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it.

The book is about how people deal with the death of a loved one. The death of a child is a tragedy. The purpose of this book is to help people understand death and how to cope with it. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it.

View of death: The view of death is a central theme of the book. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it.

The book is about how people deal with the death of a loved one. The death of a child is a tragedy. The purpose of this book is to help people understand death and how to cope with it. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it. It is about the death of a child and how to cope with it.

The books in this section deal with the death of self. Some are the death of a child due to illness, while others are the death of a person after a long life. The purpose of these books is to show children that death is something that happens to everyone; there is no way to escape it. Some of these books could also be used to help a child who is facing his or her own death to understand what is happening to him or her.

Coerr, Eleanor. Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. New York: Putnam, 1977.

Type of death: death of self due to illness

Presentation: This book presents the story of Sadako, a little Japanese girl who gets leukemia due to radiation from the Hiroshima atomic bomb. The story is about her fight for life because she does not want to die from the disease. She tries to make one thousand paper cranes so that the gods would grant her wish to be well again. Her fight touches the lives of all of those around her. This is a very moving and endearing book. It teaches the value of not giving up in the fight for life, yet also being willing to accept death when it does come.

View of death: The view taken on by this book is that of the Japanese Buddhist religion. The book talks of the spirits of the dead that still float around. The story mentions the altars and prayers made to loved ones that have already died. The belief is that those spirits are still around.

Age group: 8-12

Gerstein, Mordicai. The Mountains of Tibet. New York: Harper and Row, 1987.

Type of death: death of self due to old age

Presentation: This is the story about a boy who loved to fly kites. He lived in Tibet and always wanted to travel to other worlds to see what those worlds were like. He grew up, married, had a family and, after a long life, dies. After he dies, he finds himself in a place with a voice speaking to him. The voice tells him to make a decision between becoming a part of the endless universe or living another life in another world. He decides to live another life because he always wanted to see another world. The voice tells him to choose which world he would like to live in. After a series of decisions the man chooses to live in Tibet as a little girl, choosing a place he thought he would never choose to live again.

View of death: This book expresses the idea that death is the end of one's life, but that it is not the end of one's existence. A person can live another life after the one before it ends.

Age group: 7-up

Varley, Susan. Badger's Parting Gifts. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1984.

Type of death: death of self due to old age

Presentation: This is the story of Badger. He is old and he knows that he must die soon. He was not afraid of dying; he was only worried about his friends that he would leave behind. He prepared them by telling them that one day he would be going down a long tunnel never to come back again. Badger finally dies and his friends are very sad. They all got together and began talking about the days when Badger was alive. As they are talking they realize that Badger taught them many things and that one way he would live on is by sharing with others what he had taught them. The sadness slowly went away, even though his friends still did miss him.

View of death: Death is shown as a part of life. It is final, but the person lives on in memories and lessons learned from that person.

Age group: 4-8

The loss of a parent or the death of a parent is a traumatic experience. These two experiences are often related in the same section of the book. Both deal with the death of a parent, but the death of a parent is a traumatic experience.

Chapter 3:
Death of Parent/Sibling
The death of a parent is not only a traumatic experience, but it is also a traumatic experience. The death of a parent is not only a traumatic experience, but it is also a traumatic experience.

1994, Little, Brown, Boston, MA
Company, Inc., 1994.

Types of death: death of a parent or sibling
The death of a parent or sibling is a traumatic experience. The death of a parent or sibling is a traumatic experience. The death of a parent or sibling is a traumatic experience.

the end of the line
The end of the line is a traumatic experience. The end of the line is a traumatic experience. The end of the line is a traumatic experience.

Agencies
The agencies are a traumatic experience. The agencies are a traumatic experience. The agencies are a traumatic experience.

Providence Publishing
Providence Publishing

This section deals with the death of a parent and the death of a sibling. These two types of death have been placed in the same section because they both deal with the death of an immediate family member. The death of a parent can be a very traumatic experience for a child. He/she can feel alone, abandoned and scared about what might happen to him/her. The death of a sibling can also have a deep impact in the life of a child. A sibling is not only family, but often a very close friend to a child and close in age to a child.

Death of Parent:

Clifton, Lucile. Everett Anderson's Goodbye. New York: Henry, Holt and Company, Inc., 1983.

Type of death: death of father (cause not given)

Presentation: This book presents five stages of grief (denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance) in a poetic format. The story is about Everett, a little boy, whose father has died. The story follows him as he goes through five stages of grief. At the end of the book, it is possible to see that although it may take a long time, the intense pain and hurt eventually goes away and life can go on. The book is very simple and easy to follow and presents the subject of death and the grief process in a very straightforward manner.

View of death: Death is presented as a natural part of life and the grieving process is presented as a necessary component to handling the death of a loved one.

Age group: 3-8

Cohen, Cindy K. and John T. Heiney. Daddy's Promise. Bloomfield Hills, MI: Promise Publications, 1997.

Type of death: death of father due to illness

Presentation: This book is about a little boy whose father died. His dad had promised him his old baseball mitt and the boy cannot find it. The frustration of that provokes many questions in the little boy's head. He asks his mother many questions and she answers them the best she can. He also has dreams of his father. In those dreams his father answers some of his questions and assures the boy that he will always be watching him. The book does a good job of answering some of the key questions that children have about death. It answers these questions in a straightforward way without all of the terminology that can confuse young children. It also teaches the important lesson of open communication and the need for children to ask questions.

View of death: Death is presented as the end of physical life. The book presents the belief that the spirit continues to live on in a place where it can watch over loved ones left behind or reflect on its life or lives to come. The idea is that even though a person has died he or she continues to live in the thoughts of loved ones.

Age group: 4-8

Only, Jane Leslie. Crazy Lady. New York: Harper Collins Children's Books, 1993.

Type of death: death of mother due to a stroke

Presentation: In this book, Vernon's mother has already died, therefore it deals a lot with the grief process following death. Vernon befriends a mother and her son, the neighborhood outcasts, as a favor to his tutor. Through this friendship Vernon begins to accept his mother's untimely death and the love that his family has for him. He also discovers the strengths he has as a person. This is a great book that shows the growth of

character that can happen as a result of dealing with death. It also stresses the importance of family and the strength that can be found in them during periods of grieving.

View of death: Death is a secondary theme in this book, the growing process after a death is the central theme. Death is seen as a part of life, and as one of the many things that happens in life to help build character.

Age group: 12-up

Creech, Sharon. Walk Two Moons. New York: Scholastic Books, 1994.

Type of death: death of mother in a bus wreck

Presentation: This book tells the story of Sal, whose mother left to go find herself. Her mother never returned because she died in a bus wreck right before she reached her final destination. The story is told by Sal, who tells the story of her friend Phoebe as Sal and her grandparents make the long trip to the place where her mother died. Through the telling of Phoebe's story, she realizes that she is telling her own story. As they retrace her mother's trip Sal realizes that in order for her to accept that her mother is really dead she must see the grave. By the end of the book, Sal is able to accept her mother's death and continue on with life. She is even able to accept her grandmother's death, which happens towards the end of the book. This book stresses the importance of allowing children to participate in the funeral and burial processes.

View of death: The book expresses that death is often unexpected. It is extremely hard to accept it, especially when it is a loved one.

Age group: 11-up

Frost, Dorothy. Dad! Why'd You Leave Me? Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press, 1991.

Type of death: death of father due to a heart attack

Presentation: This book tells the story of Ronnie and his family after the sudden and unexpected death of his father while he was on a business trip. Ronnie experiences many of the feelings that a lot of children do after the death of a parent, sadness, loneliness, fear, guilt, anger and confusion. The book shows how these different feelings affect Ronnie and those around him. He also feels pressure to keep some of those feelings to himself because people tell him he is now the man of the house. The book also addresses the family's desire for people to start treating them normally again so that they can go back to their lives. They learn that people often do not know what to say or do. This book also stresses the importance of spending time remembering the person who has died. Memories can be very therapeutic and help the grieving process continue. Another lesson taught in this book is that the immediate family can be the best support during difficult times.

View of death: Death is seen as final and unexpected. It can come quickly leaving those left behind with many questions.

Age group: 7-11

Greenfield, Eloise. Nathanial Talking. New York: Black Butterfly Children's Group, 1988.

Type of death: death of mother

Presentation: This book is about a little boy named Nathanial and his philosophy on life. In its essence it is a celebration of life, but it also discusses death. Nathanial tells the reader about his life and the people that he encounters. One of the people he talks about is his mother who is dead. He talks about how much it hurt when his mama died and how he

did not want to face the world anymore. His uncle tells him that he will be able to get past the pain and feel like himself again. Nathaniel tells the reader that he still misses his mama, but that he tries to think about the good things in life. The rest of the book deals with different aspects of Nathaniel's daily life. It is a very sweet book that celebrates life, even in its discussion on death.

View of death: Death is a very sad part of life and very difficult to deal with, but it is possible to get past the pain and feel normal again.

Age group: 6-11

Hest, Amy. Love You, Daddy. New York: Penguin Books, 1993.

Type of death: death of father in World War II

Presentation: This book begins with Katie's father going off to war. The story then focuses on how Katie and her mother lived through the next year. Throughout the year, Katie learns to really appreciate the people around her who love her very much. She is very upset when she learns of her father's death. The story shows Katie's gradual acceptance of her father's death. Katie realizes that no one will ever replace her father, but that she can learn to love others. She learns that love is very risky, but that it is worth the try. This is a very good book. It has a very simple approach towards the subject of death. The author does an excellent job of showing Katie's feelings.

View of death: Death is seen as a final and tragic thing, but it is not the end of life for those left behind. It is possible to love again, even after the death of a loved one.

Age group: 8-12

McNamara, Jill W. My Mom is Dying: A Child's Diary. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1994.

Type of death: death of mother due to illness

Presentation: This book consists of diary entries made by a little girl whose mom is dying. The entries give a glimpse into the many emotions that the little girl experiences during the time before and after her mom's death. She experiences denial, fear, questioning, anger, guilt and sadness. When her mom dies, she does not believe it at first; it does not sink in until later. The diary entries are addressed to God and there is a very Christian viewpoint taken on in this book. It is probably very appropriate for children who are facing the impending death of a parent; it lets them know that it is okay to experience a lot of different feelings. This book has a guide for parents and teachers to help them use this book to the best benefit for children and how to discuss this book with a child.

View of death: A very religious, Christian view of death is taken in this book. Death is seen as final, but the little girl finds comfort in knowing that her mom is in heaven with God.

Age group: 4-10

MacLachlan, Patricia. Sarah, Plain and Tall. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1985.

Type of death: death of mother after childbirth

Presentation: This is the story of Anna and Caleb. Their mother died after giving birth to Caleb. After several years, their father decides to put out an ad for a mail order bride. That is how Sarah comes on a trial visit. They are all captivated by Sarah and hope that she will stay. The book illustrates the adjustments that are made after the death of a loved

one, even years after the death. This is a very sweet book as it shows how they all learn to love again and that no matter what they will always miss their mother.

View of death: Death brings about changes and adjustments that affect everyone involved.

Age group: 7-11

Myers, Walter Dean. Somewhere in the Darkness. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1992.

Type of death: death of father due to illness

Presentation: This book presents the story of Jimmy. His mother is dead and he lives with a friend of the family because his father, Crab, is in jail. His father returns and wants to take Jimmy to go with him to Chicago. Their travels take them to Arkansas, the place where Crab spent his childhood. The trip allows Jimmy to get to know a little better the man he never knew. His father dies in an Arkansas hospital after being arrested there for being a fugitive. The trip they make can be compared to a dying person's final journey. Crab wanted Jimmy to know that he was not guilty and that he loved him. Jimmy just wanted a father and Crab's approval.

View of death: The book gives the idea that life brings loved ones back into their families' lives, and death takes those people away before it is possible to really know them.

Age group: 13-up

Paterson, Katherine. Flip-Flop Girl. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1994.

Type of death: death of father due to illness

Presentation: This book is the story of Vinnie, a little girl whose father has just recently died of cancer. The story relates her experiences after her father died and her reactions to the changes that take place, such as moving to another town. Vinnie befriends a girl, the flip-flop girl, who in her own way helps Vinnie work through her sadness and anger.

Vinnie's brother, Mason, also begins to work through feelings he has been experiencing. The book deals with the affects on children caused by some of the drastic changes that take place after the death of a parent.

View of death: Death is seen as something that ruins a person life. Later in the story, it is thought to be merely a part of life.

Age group: 12-up

Paterson, Katherine. Park's Quest. New York: Puffin Books, 1988.

Type of death: death of father in Vietnam

Presentation: This book tells the story of Park and his quest to know more about his father. His father was killed in Vietnam when Park was just a baby. Park's mom refuses to talk to him about it. She finally agrees to let him visit his grandfather's farm in Virginia. There Park learns the truth that he has been searching for and must accept, no matter how hard. This is a wonderful book. It addresses the issue of children whose parents died before they could remember them. Those children still miss that parent even if they never really knew them. If no one tells the child what that parent was like he or she might be prone to create an image in his or her mind of this person that may or may not be true.

View of death: This books shows that death can hide truths that sometimes can be painful to discover.

Age group: 10-up

Spelman, Cornelia. After Charlotte's Mom Died. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1996.

Type of death: death of mother in car accident

Presentation: The story is about Charlotte and her dad after her mother's death. She is six years old and experiencing a lot of different kinds of emotions. She feels she has no one to whom she can turn. Her dad is very sad, but will not talk to her about it. She is afraid to go to sleep at night because an aunt of hers told her that being dead is like being asleep. This demonstrates some of the misconceptions about death that many children have, some of which are given to them by well-meaning adults. After an outburst of anger at school, Charlotte and her dad go to a therapist who helps them work out the feelings of sadness that they are experiencing. Through play Charlotte begins to express some of her feelings, fears and questioning. Eventually, Charlotte and her dad are able to share with each other the hurt that they feel. Through that sharing some of the pain begins to dull. This is a wonderful book. It is honest. The grieving process is not easy; some cannot do it without professional help.

View of death: Death leaves people feeling confused, abandoned and scared. It is not fair and there is a lot of pain for those who are left behind.

Age group: 4-9

Voigt, Cynthia. Dacey's Song. New York: Ballantine Books, 1982.

Type of death: death of mother

Presentation: This book presents the story of Dicey and her siblings as they adjust to living with their grandmother, someone they had never met, because their mother had been placed in a mental institution. The book deals with the issues of growing up, learning to hold on and when to simply let go. Dicey learns to let her mother go after she dies. The book shows how each character matures through the experience, especially Dicey. The brothers and sisters learn how to move on from the life they had with their mother to life with their grandmother, especially after their mother dies.

View of death: Death is seen to be a natural part of life; it is a part of growing up. People can grow after an experience with death.

Age group: 12-up

Death of a sibling:

Breebaart, Joeri and Piet. When I Die, Will I Get Better? New York: Peter Bredrick Books, 1993.

Type of death: death of brother due to illness

Presentation: This is the story of two brother rabbits, Fred and Joe. They are very close, and enjoy playing with each other. Joe gets very sick one day and dies. Fred has a very hard time understanding what has happened to his brother. He keeps expecting the doctor to make Joe better. All of the animals in the forest help Fred's family prepare for the funeral. One of Fred's questions is whether or not he will get better when he dies. He does not understand that Joe is dead forever. Slowly he begins to understand. He chooses to say something at the funeral for Joe. Right after the funeral Fred and his family are very sad, but slowly the sadness starts to go away. This is a beautiful book. It is written

by a five-year-old boy, with the help of his father, shortly after the death of his brother. The honest way in which death is dealt with in this book is very profound.

View of death: Death takes people away from us, but those people continue to live on in our memories.

Age group: 3-8

Fletcher, Ralph. Fig Pudding. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books, 1995.

Type of death: death of sibling due to a severed brain stem caused by a bicycle accident

Presentation: This is the story of a family told by the oldest son, Cliff. Cliff relates the events of one very memorable year in his family's life. Towards the end of the year, his brother Brad runs head on into an ambulance parked on the street while he is riding his bicycle. He severs his brain stem and does not make it through the night. The author does an excellent job of relating each family member's reaction to this sudden tragic death. The story shows the process of grief by which the family finally works through the pain and learns to laugh again. By showing each person's response to the death, the author expresses the important truth that everyone is different. People respond to things in different ways. Each person must work through his or her own grief in his or her own personal way; there is not a right way of grieving.

View of death: Death is a very tragic event that can shatter the lives of those left behind, but the pieces can be picked up and lives put back together again.

Age group: 10-up

Lowry, Lois. A Summer to Die. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc, 1977.

Type of death: death of sister due to terminal illness

Presentation: The book tells the story of Meg who has always been jealous of her sister Molly. Molly has always been the popular and beautiful one in Meg's eyes. When her family moves to a smaller house so that her father can write a book, Meg is forced to share a room with her sister. When Molly gets sick, Meg grows very tired of Molly's grouchiness and whining. Molly continues to get worse and eventually is rushed to the hospital, never to be released. Meg realizes that Molly is very sick and begins to wonder if she really knows how Meg feels about her. The book shows how Meg slowly begins to accept her sister's death and is able to show her sister that she really does care about her. Meg learns that death is merely a part of life that could happen to anyone.

View of death: Death can take people away before it is possible to show someone how much he or she is loved.

Age group: 11-up

Chapter 4: Death of Relative/Friend

This section looks at books that deal with the death of a relative and the death of a friend. The death of a relative also includes the death of a grandparent as a sub-topic. The death of a grandparent is one death that children are a little more likely to encounter as young children. It can be a very sad time for them, and some might have difficulty accepting their death. The impact of the death of a relative, such as an aunt or an uncle, will depend on how close the child was to that person and how well he or she knew them. The death of a friend can be very traumatic because that person is a peer. A friend's death can cause children to wonder if it could happen to them as well.

Death of grandparents:

Barker, Peggy. What Happened When Grandma Died. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1984.

Type of death: death of grandmother (cause of death not given)

Presentation: This book tells the story of how a little girl comes to understand her grandma's death. On the way to the funeral, her father explains three things that her grandma left behind when she died. He also explains three things her grandma will have in heaven. The explanation he gives her helps her to understand and accept her grandma's death. She realizes that she will be sad and will miss her, but she knows that her grandma is in a better place. The way this book explains death is very straightforward and Christian. It is honest, but not in a harsh way.

View of death: Death is the end of life on earth, but for Christians it is the beginning of a new life in heaven.

Age group: 5-11

Brooks, Bruce. Everywhere. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1990.

Type of death: grandfather is dying, but he does not actually die in this book

Presentation: The story is about a boy whose grandfather has a heart attack. A nurse is brought in to take care of him. The grandfather is not expected to live through the day. The nurse brings her nephew, Dooley, to play with the boy, who is very upset about his grandfather. Dooley suggests trying a soul switch to save his grandfather. This book shows the love that a young boy has for his grandfather and his willingness to do anything to save him. It also addresses the boy's fears of seeing his grandfather as he is dying. The book also shows that some people do make it through extremely bad times and continue to live for some time longer.

View of death: Death is demonstrated as a very scary thing and hard to understand.

Age group: 10-up

De Paola, Tomie. Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs. New York: Penguin Books, 1973.

Type of death: death of great-grandmother due to old age and death of grandmother due to old age

Presentation: This book is about Tommy, who visits his grandmother and great-grandmother every Sunday. He loves the time that he spends with them and looks forward to Sundays. His great-grandmother dies of old age. Tommy is very sad about this, but he learns that even though death is a sad thing, it is still possible to be happy. The book teaches the permanency of death. Tommy learns the importance of remembering the person through memories. Towards the end of the book, after Tommy is much older, his grandmother dies. Tommy is sad about her death, but he is able to accept

it better because of his previous experience with death and his older age. This book shows that death is an inevitable part of the cycle of life. The way this book presented the subject of death was in a way that is not too harsh, especially for younger children. It is an excellent book.

View of death: This book presents death as a very natural part of life. People are born, they live and then they die. This book also leaves open the possibility of an afterlife without taking a definite stance.

Age group: 3-8

Fassler, Joan. My Grandpa Died Today. New York: Behavioral Publications, Inc, 1971.

Type of death: death of grandfather due to old age

Presentation: This book tells the story of David and how he deals with his grandfather's death. A couple of days before his grandfather died, David's grandfather told him that he was not afraid to die because David was not afraid to live. David did not understand what his grandfather meant. After his grandfather's death David was very sad. The book does a good job of expressing the feelings that David felt and what he thought of the things going on around him. It also shows how David eventually understands what his grandfather told him earlier, and with that understanding he begins to feel happy again because he feels that his grandfather is also happy.

View of death: Death is something that happens to everyone, but there is no need to be afraid of it because there are loved ones left behind who continue living.

Age group: 3-8

London, Jonathan. Liplap's Wish. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1994.

Type of death: death of grandmother

Presentation: This is the story of a little bunny named Liplap. The day of the first snow he goes outside to build a snowbunny. His snowbunny does not have a face, and he wishes his grandmother were still alive so that she could help him give it a face. Liplap goes back inside leaving the snowbunny unfinished. Later in the day he finishes the snowbunny, but he gives it a frown. That night his mother explains that even that his grandmother is dead, she is still watching over them. This comforts Liplap, and the next day he feels much better because he knows his grandmother is still watching over him. This is a very sweet book. It very gently shows that the loss of a loved on can still hurt even after that loved one has been dead for awhile.

View of death: Death is very sad, but the deceased continues to watch over his or her loved ones.

Age group: 3-8

Miles, Miska. Annie and the Old One. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1971.

Type of death: death of grandmother due to old age

Presentation: The book tells the story of Annie, a little Indian girl who has a very close relationship with her grandmother. When the Old One tells the family that she will die when the rug on the loom is taken down, Annie is confused and devastated. She does not understand why her grandmother must die. She tries to think of ways to keep the rug from being completed so that her grandmother will not die. Finally Annie decides to undo the weaving of each day while her family is sleeping. The Old One discovers what Annie is doing and takes her for a walk to talk to her. She explains to Annie that she cannot stop time, that she must accept her grandmother's death. She shows Annie how every living

thing must live and then die and go back to the earth from which it came. Annie begins to understand that her grandmother's death is inevitable and that she must accept it as part of the natural cycle of life.

View of death: The book teaches the idea that death is a part of the cycle of life and there is no way to escape it.

Age group: 6-12

Yolen, Jane. Grandad Bill's Song. New York: Paperstar Book, 1994.

Type of death: death of grandfather

Presentation: In this book, a young boy asks different family members and friends what they did the day that his grandfather died. Through their answers to his questions, the boy begins to learn that his grandfather continues to live on in memories even though he is dead. The boy also learns that people all have different reactions to the death of a loved one, but that all those reactions are okay. This is a very good book because of the important lessons it teaches about death. It shows children that the person who died still lives on in their memories and that the feelings that they experience are okay.

View of death: Death is the end of physical life, but the deceased continues to live on in the memories of those left behind.

Age group: 4-8

Death of a relative:

Rylant, Cynthia. Missing May. New York: Dell Publishing, 1992.

Type of death: death of aunt due to natural causes

Presentation: The story in this book is about a girl, Summer, and her Uncle Ob as they both learn to accept her Aunt May's death. Ob and Summer are having a difficult time overcoming their grief. Summer experiences fear of abandonment, partially due to the way she felt and the experiences she had following her mother's death. She is afraid that Ob will not want her anymore, or that he will die also. Ob does not know how he can live without May. They befriend Cletus, who helps them begin to overcome their grief. Ob and Summer begin to realize that May is with them in spirit, with this realization the healing can begin.

View of death: Death is a natural, but painful part of life. It leaves people feeling alone and abandoned.

Age group: 10-up

Death of a friend:

Bauer, Marion Dane. On My Honor. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing, 1986.

Type of death: tragic death of friend due to drowning

Presentation: The story is about Joel and how he deals with the guilt and sadness over a friend's death. Joel and Tony are riding to the State Park when Tony decides to go down to the river. Joel dares Tony to swim into the river. Joel makes it to the sand bar, but Tony does not because he cannot swim. Joel is left there all alone, not knowing what to do. He is consumed with guilt, fear and anger. He goes home and hides because he does not want to face the truth. He tries to hide what really happened when Tony's parents find out that he is dead. The guilt is too much and Joel finally tells the truth. His guilt is so much that he can constantly smell the stench of the river on him, even though he has

taken a bath and changed clothes. This is an excellent book demonstrating the guilt that many children face, especially with the tragic death of a friend, even more so if they are eyewitnesses to it.

View of death: Death is very tragic and extremely unfair. It does not make sense to those left behind.

Age group: 11-up

Cohn, Janice. I Had a Friend Named Peter: Talking to Children about the Death of a Friend. New York: Morrow, 1987.

Type of death: death of friend after being hit by a car

Presentation: This book is about Betsy and how she handles the death of her best friend Peter. When her parents tell her about Peter's death, Betsy is confused because she does not understand what being dead means. Her parents answer all of her questions and try to help her understand what happened. This is an excellent book. It addresses many of the questions that young children will have following the death of someone close to them. It does an excellent job of answering those questions honestly and gently. The book also has an introduction for adults that answers some questions they might have about talking to a child about death.

View of death: The finality of death is expressed in this book. The book also shows that a dead person continues to live in the memories of those left behind.

Age group: 3-8

Paterson, Katherine. Bridge to Terabithia. New York: Crowell, 1977.

Type of death: death of a friend due to an accident

Presentation: This book presents the story of Jess Aarons and the friendship he has with Leslie Burke. This unlikely pair becomes the best of friends and creates Terabithia, an imaginary kingdom. In Terabithia, they rule as king and queen; there no harm can hurt them. It is a place where they can escape the harshness of their lives. Tragedy strikes and Leslie is killed. The book shows the denial that Jess experiences. It does an excellent job of showing his grief and difficulty expressing it. Eventually he is able to go back to Terabithia, where he builds a bridge across the creek in which Leslie died. He realizes that he is much stronger than he thought he was and that Terabithia is a part of that strength and therefore should be shared. This book is wonderful, it is packed full of emotion.

View of death: The book expresses the idea that death is difficult and hard to accept, especially when it strikes without warning.

Age group: 11-up

Smith, Doris B. A Taste of Blackberries. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1973.

Type of death: death of friend due to an allergic reaction to bee stings

Presentation: The story is about a boy and how he deals with his best friend's death. The book shows the many different emotions that the boy experiences after his friend's death. He refuses to eat until after the funeral. He has a hard time expressing what he is feeling; he finds it difficult to say what he really wants to say. He cannot understand why his friend had to die. He learns that death is not fair and that it hurts a lot, especially when he realizes the things he will not be able to do with his friend anymore. At the end of the

book, he goes blackberry picking with his friend in his thoughts. This action helps the healing process begin.

View of death: Death unjustly ends young lives, without explanation. It is confusing and sad; there is no way to understand it.

Age group: 8-up

Chapter 5: Death of a Pet

Aside from the death of a grandparent, the death of a pet is probably the most likely death that a child will encounter as a child. This section presents books that deal with the death of a pet. Some adults might think the death of a pet might not be important, but children can be very attached to their pets. The books in this section also teach important lessons about death that can be taught to any child; not just those who have experienced the death of a pet.

Carrick, Carol. The Accident. New York: Seabury, 1976.

Type of death: death of pet dog

Presentation: The story is about a little boy, Christopher and his dog Bodger. Christopher and Bodger stay home while his parents go out for a canoe paddle. Later, Christopher decides to walk down to the lake to meet his parents. On his way, Bodger runs out in front of a truck and is hit. The impact kills Bodger. Christopher is very upset and at first blames the man in the truck for Bodger's death. Later, he blames himself, but he realizes that no matter whom he blames, he cannot bring Bodger back. He and his father go out and find a stone to mark Bodger's grave. Christopher's anger slowly turns to sadness.

View of death: Death is tragic and sudden. It often leaves no one to blame and is very hard to accept. It can cause a lot of anger, confusion and grief.

Age group: 4-8

Rogers, Fred. When a Pet Dies. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1988.

Type of death: death of a pet

Presentation: This book discusses what happens when a pet dies. It talks about the things that people sometimes do after a pet dies and the feelings that they may experience. The

book also addresses many of the questions that children may have about death and the death of a pet they love. It does a wonderful job of explaining death in a simple, straightforward manner that is not threatening to children. Although this book talks about the death of a pet, it can be useful in explaining death to a child facing any kind of death or a child that has questions about death.

View of death: Death is presented as a natural part of life that will happen to everybody and everything in this world.

Age group: 3-8

Viorst, Judith. The Tenth Good Thing About Barney. New York: Atheneum, 1971.

Type of death: death of pet cat

Presentation: The book tells the story of a boy whose cat, Barney, dies. He is very sad about it. To help him feel better, they have a funeral for Barney. His mom tells him to think of ten good things about Barney that he can share at the funeral. At the funeral he shares only nine things because he cannot think of the tenth thing. Later in the day the boy gets into a discussion with his friend as to where Barney is now. The friend says he is in heaven and the boy says he is in the ground. The father ends the discussion by saying that no one really knows what happens after someone dies. The boy helps his father in the garden and he realizes that Barney will now be helping the plants and trees grow. He realizes that is the tenth good thing about Barney. Thinking of the ten good things about his pet cat helped him work through some of his sadness by remembering the good things that made him happy.

View of death: Death is shown as being final and sad. The book also points out that no one really knows for sure what happens after death.

Age group: 5-9

Wilhelm, Hans. I'll Always Love You. New York: Crown, 1985.

Type of death: death of pet dog

Presentation: This is a very sweet book that tells the story of a little boy and his best friend, his dog. The dog gets old and dies. The boy is very sad, but he finds solace in knowing that he told her that he would always love her. When offered another puppy, he declines because he realizes that he is not ready to love another pet yet. He knows that someday he will have another pet, and he will tell that pet that he loves him everyday also. This book has a very simple message of the need to let others know they are loved before it is too late.

View of death: Death is final, but the deceased continues to live on in the memories of loved ones.

Age group: 4-8

This section looks at death due to tragedy; this includes deaths due to war, bombings, and natural disasters. It is sad to think that a section like this is necessary, but it is. Wars and other hate crimes affect a large group of people, and sometimes children are forgotten in the confusion. The books in this section deal with specific tragedies that have occurred and how they have affected different types of people.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, 1995.

Type of death: deaths due to a church bombing

Presentation: This is the story of the Watsons. The book relates the events that lead up to their trip to Birmingham, the trip and what happened after the trip. While in Birmingham some racial activists place a bomb in a neighborhood church where the youngest Watson girl is attending Sunday School. She was not there when the bomb exploded, but the family did not know that until later. The impact is great on the whole family, but the one hit the hardest is Kenny, the middle child. They quickly return to Michigan where Kenny begins to hide behind the couch and becomes very withdrawn. Kenny had actually gone into the church after the explosion and saw the dead bodies, one of which he thought was his sister's. His older brother discovers his hiding place and eventually forces him to come out and face the world. Through a conversation with his brother, Kenny finally allows his emotions to flow freely. He is confused and cannot understand why people would not want little girls and boys to go to Sunday School, why anyone would do something as terrible as that.

View of death: Death is tragic and senseless; it is an evil thing to cause another person's death. There is no excuse for it.

Age group: 10-up

Hunt, Irene. Across Five Aprils. New York: Berkley Publishing Group, 1964.

Type of death: deaths of brothers in the Civil War

Presentation: This book is about Jethro Creighton and his family during the Civil War. The book begins the April the war started and goes through the summer following the end of the war. The family lives in southern Illinois. After his brothers and brother-in-law leave to go off to war, Jethro is left to help his father take care of the farm. His father suffers a heart attack and Jethro is forced to become the man of the house. The book looks at the deep impact the war has on the family. One of the brothers fights for the rebel side, this provokes a lot of hate towards Jethro's family because they still accepted him. Another brother is killed in the war. A realistic picture of the hardships and pain that the Civil War brought to families is depicted in this book.

View of death: Death is a real phenomenon that can happen to anyone at any time. It is a part of life.

Age group: 12-up

Lamb, Nancy. One April Morning: Children Remember the Oklahoma City Bombing. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1996.

Type of death: deaths due to the bombing in Oklahoma City

Presentation: This book discusses the impact the Oklahoma City bombing had on the children in the area. The author has children's quotes on how the bomb affected each of them. The impact of this book is tremendous; it is very moving. The use of children's quotes adds to the realness and intensity of the book. This book is extremely honest. The children talk about what they heard and saw, and how it made them feel. It is an amazing

book that shows how a tragedy such as this can affect those directly and indirectly involved in it.

View of death: Death due to tragedy is unexplainable. It is unfair, unnatural, and not right.

Age group: 5-up

Maruki, Toshi. Hiroshima No Pika. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1980.

Type of death: deaths due to atomic bombing of Hiroshima

Presentation: This book relates what happened in Hiroshima the day the atomic bomb was dropped on it. It shows how it affected one family's life in particular, but it also tells how the bomb affected thousands of people in Hiroshima. This book does not disguise the truth about what happened. It describes the horror and destruction that happened as a result of the bombing. It is a good book to teach a child about the horrors of war. It tells of how the dead are remembered each year in Hiroshima.

View of death: Death is a very tragic thing, especially when it is caused by other human beings.

Age group: 6-12

Tsuchiya, Yukio. Faithful Elephants: A True Story of Animals, People, and War. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988.

Type of death: death due to tragedy

Presentation: This is the true story of three elephants at the Tokyo Zoo. All of the animals at the zoo had to be killed because of the air raid attacks by enemy planes during World War II. The zoo keepers killed all the animals, but when it came time to kill the elephants they had a difficult time. The first elephant they tried to kill would not eat the

poisoned potatoes. When they tried to inject poison into him, the needles broke. They had to starve him and the other two elephants to death. The agony of seeing the animals begging for food and slowly dying was too much for the zoo keepers to bear. They hoped that the war would end so that they could save the elephants, but it did not happen. This book shows how even animals are not spared from the horrors of the war. War affects everything and everyone.

View of death: Death due to war is a very sad thing, especially because it is something that could be avoided.

Age group: 4-9

Chapter 7: General Books on Death

The books in this section do not necessarily discuss a specific type of death. Most deal with the topic of death, questions children might have and answers to those questions. These books are good to use with children to teach them about death in general; they are good for teaching about death before the child ever encounters death firsthand. They may also be used for children who have just experienced the death of a loved one.

Arnold, Caroline. What We Do When Someone Dies. New York: Franklin Watts, 1987.

Type of death: general

Presentation: This book discusses many of the practices and customs that people follow when someone they love dies. It explains a lot of the technical terms related to those practices. The book does a very good job of explaining what death is in a way that children can understand. It also discusses in detail what a funeral is like and what happens at a burial. Many different customs and practices are explained in this book, which makes it applicable to many different situations.

View of death: Death is a very natural part of life that happens to all living things.

Age group: 3-10

Brown, Laurie K. and Marc. When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death. New York: Little, Brown & Company, 1996.

Type of death: general

Presentation: This is an informational storybook that answers many of the questions that children might have about the subject of death. It discusses what being alive and dead means. It also looks at the feelings that people experience after losing someone they love, ways people die and many of the customs and beliefs people have about death and the

afterlife. The book does not advocate any one belief or custom, it merely describes some of the more prominent viewpoints. It also looks at ways of remembering the person who died as a way to help make the sadness go away. This book would be good for children who might have started asking questions about death to read and discuss with their parents.

View of death: There are many views of death presented in this book, but the central message is that death is a natural part of the cycle of life. The finality of death is also expressed.

Age group: 3-9

Buscaglia, Leo. The Fall of Freddie the Leaf. Thorofare, NJ: Slack Inc., 1982.

Type of death: general

Presentation: This book tells the story of Freddie the Leaf. It is a lovely tale of the seasons of life that everyone must go through. Daniel, Freddie's friend explains the changes that Freddie and the other leaves experience as the seasons change. He also explains that they all have a purpose and when that purpose has been fulfilled they will die. The book teaches that death is a natural part of the cycle of life, and there is no way to stop it or escape it. The author celebrates life in his lovely presentation of death.

View of death: Death is shown as the final season of life. It is a part of the cycle of a greater force, which is Life.

Age group: 4-up

L'Engle, Madeleine. A Ring of Endless Light. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1980.

Type of death: general

Presentation: The story is about Vicky and her summer at her grandfather's house with the rest of her family. They spend the whole summer there because of her grandfather's impending death. Right after they arrive, a friend of the family dies of a heart attack after saving the life of someone attempting suicide. Her grandfather presides over the friend's funeral and burial services. Throughout the book, Vicky seems to be faced with death. A little girl dies in Vicky's arms while she is in the waiting room of the hospital. This deeply impacts her. She goes into shock, but she learns to see the light within herself and she is able to come out of the state of shock.

View of death: Death is something that is all around and very much a part of the natural course of life.

Age group: 16-up

Simon, Norma. The Saddest Time. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1986.

Type of death: general

Presentation: In this book three different deaths are discussed as a way of helping children understand death. Each story tells how the children reacted to the death. In the first, a boy's uncle dies and even though he is very sad, he does everything he can do to help his aunt and his cousins with their grief. He realizes that his uncle will always be in his memories. The second story is about a little boy who is hit by a car and how the children reacted to his death. The children had many questions about death that their teacher answered for them. The final story is about a little girl and her grandmother's death. She is very sad and has a hard time accepting her death. With time she is able to

accept her grandmother's death and can be happy again. This book does a very good job of showing the reactions children have to many different types of death.

View of death: Death is simply a natural part of the cycle of life.

Age group: 4-8

Tangvald, Christine Harder. Someone I Love Died. Singapore: Chariot Books, 1988.

Type of death: general

Presentation: This book is geared towards children who have already experienced the death of a loved one. There are places in the book for the child to write in the name of the person who died and for them to write in their questions. It provides honest answers to some of the questions that children might have regarding death and what happens after death. This book is very Christian in its perspective. All of the answers and explanations point to God and heaven. There is also a parents' guide in the back of the book to help parents in their discussion of this book with their children.

View of death: Death is a part of God's plan for everyone; it is the end of life here on earth. Christians spend eternity in heaven with God after death.

Age group: 4-up

Winsch, Jane Loretta. After the Funeral. New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1995.

Type of death: general

Presentation: This book shows different reactions that actual children have had to the death of someone close to them. The purpose is to show children that the many feelings that they might experience after the death of a loved one are all okay. It conveys the idea that there is no wrong way to grieve over the death of a loved one. It also shows that different people will have grief that varies in duration. This is a very good book. The use

of quotes from actual children gives it a real sense of honesty and sincerity. The subject is presented in a very gentle, non-threatening manner.

View of death: Death is a natural part of life that impacts people in very different ways.

Age group: 3-9

Quick Reference Guide

Tapioca Pudding	11	Siblings	12
Yellow Cakes	13	A Summer	20
Play - The Parting Gift	14	Big Brother	28
Sofala and the Thousand Paper Cranes	15	When I Die, You'll See My Rings?	27
The Mountains of Tibet	16	Death of Robert Frost	28
Death of Parent/Sibling	17	Grandparents	31
Parent	18	Archie and the Old Lady	34
After Charlotte's Aunt Dies	19	Everywhere	32
Crazy Lady	20	Granddaddy Bill's Song	35
Daddy Why'd You Leave Me?	21	Uncle's Wish	33
Daddy's Promise	22	Grandpa Died Today	36
Death of Parent	23	Grandfather, Nana, Grandmother	37
Death of Parent's Sibling	24	When I Died I Was	38
The Dog I Had	25	When I Died	39
Love With a Sister	26	When I Died	40
M. B. Love's Song - About a Sister	27	When I Died	41
Death of Parent	28	When I Died	42
Death of Parent's Sibling	29	When I Died	43
Death of Parent	30	When I Died	44
Death of Parent's Sibling	31	When I Died	45
Death of Parent's Sibling	32	When I Died	46
Death of Parent's Sibling	33	When I Died	47
Death of Parent's Sibling	34	When I Died	48
Death of Parent's Sibling	35	When I Died	49
Death of Parent's Sibling	36	When I Died	50
Death of Parent's Sibling	37	When I Died	51
Death of Parent's Sibling	38	When I Died	52
Death of Parent's Sibling	39	When I Died	53
Death of Parent's Sibling	40	When I Died	54
Death of Parent's Sibling	41	When I Died	55
Death of Parent's Sibling	42	When I Died	56
Death of Parent's Sibling	43	When I Died	57
Death of Parent's Sibling	44	When I Died	58
Death of Parent's Sibling	45	When I Died	59
Death of Parent's Sibling	46	When I Died	60
Death of Parent's Sibling	47	When I Died	61
Death of Parent's Sibling	48	When I Died	62
Death of Parent's Sibling	49	When I Died	63
Death of Parent's Sibling	50	When I Died	64
Death of Parent's Sibling	51	When I Died	65
Death of Parent's Sibling	52	When I Died	66
Death of Parent's Sibling	53	When I Died	67
Death of Parent's Sibling	54	When I Died	68
Death of Parent's Sibling	55	When I Died	69
Death of Parent's Sibling	56	When I Died	70
Death of Parent's Sibling	57	When I Died	71
Death of Parent's Sibling	58	When I Died	72
Death of Parent's Sibling	59	When I Died	73
Death of Parent's Sibling	60	When I Died	74
Death of Parent's Sibling	61	When I Died	75
Death of Parent's Sibling	62	When I Died	76
Death of Parent's Sibling	63	When I Died	77
Death of Parent's Sibling	64	When I Died	78
Death of Parent's Sibling	65	When I Died	79
Death of Parent's Sibling	66	When I Died	80
Death of Parent's Sibling	67	When I Died	81
Death of Parent's Sibling	68	When I Died	82
Death of Parent's Sibling	69	When I Died	83
Death of Parent's Sibling	70	When I Died	84
Death of Parent's Sibling	71	When I Died	85
Death of Parent's Sibling	72	When I Died	86
Death of Parent's Sibling	73	When I Died	87
Death of Parent's Sibling	74	When I Died	88
Death of Parent's Sibling	75	When I Died	89
Death of Parent's Sibling	76	When I Died	90
Death of Parent's Sibling	77	When I Died	91
Death of Parent's Sibling	78	When I Died	92
Death of Parent's Sibling	79	When I Died	93
Death of Parent's Sibling	80	When I Died	94
Death of Parent's Sibling	81	When I Died	95
Death of Parent's Sibling	82	When I Died	96
Death of Parent's Sibling	83	When I Died	97
Death of Parent's Sibling	84	When I Died	98
Death of Parent's Sibling	85	When I Died	99
Death of Parent's Sibling	86	When I Died	100

Topic Index

Death of Self	13	<i>Sibling</i>	27
Badger's Parting Gifts	15	A Summer to Die	28
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	14	Fig Pudding	28
The Mountains of Tibet	14	When I Die, Will I Get Better?	27
Death of Parent/Sibling	17	Death of Relative/Friend	30
<i>Parent</i>	18	<i>Grandparents</i>	31
After Charlotte's Mom Died	26	Annie and the Old One	34
Crazy Lady	19	Everywhere	32
Dad! Why'd You Leave Me?	20	Grandad Bill's Song	35
Daddy's Promise	18	Liplap's Wish	33
Dacey's Song	26	My Grandpa Died Today	33
Everett Anderson's Goodbye	18	Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs	32
Flip-Flop Girl	24	What Happened When Grandma Died	31
Love You, Daddy	22	<i>Relatives</i>	35
My Mom is Dying: A Child's Diary	22	Missing May	35
Nathanial Talking	21	<i>Friends</i>	36
Park's Quest	25	A Taste of Blackberries	38
Walk Two Moons	20	Bridge to Terabithia	37
Sarah, Plain and Tall	23	I Had a Friend Named Peter: Talking to Children about the Death of a Friend	37
Somewhere in the Darkness	24	On My Honor	36
		Death of a Pet	40
		I'll Always Love You	43
		The Accident	41

The Tenth Good Thing About Barney	42
When a Pet Dies	41
Death Due to Tragedy	44
Across Five Aprils	46
Faithful Elephants: A True Story of Animals, People, and War	47
Hiroshima No Pika	47
One April Morning: Children Remember the Oklahoma City Bombing	46
The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963	45
General Books on Death	49
A Ring of Endless Light	51
After the Funeral	53
Someone I Love Died	53
The Fall of Freddie the Leaf	51
The Saddest Time	52
What We Do When Someone Dies	50
When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death	50

Author Index

Arnold, Caroline	50	Greenfield, Eloise	21
Barker, Peggy	31	Heiney, John T.	18
Bauer, Marion Dane	26	Hest, Amy	22
Breebaart, Joeri	27	Hunt, Irene	46
Breebaart, Piet	27	Lamb, Nancy	46
Brooks, Bruce	32	L'Engle Madeleine	51
Brown, Laurie K.	50	London, Jonathan	33
Brown, Marc	50	Lowry, Lois	28
Buscaglia, Leo	51	McNamara, Jill W.	22
Carrick, Carol	41	MacLachlan, Patricia	23
Clifton, Lucile	18	Maruki, Toshi	47
Coerr, Eleanor	14	Miles, Miska	34
Cohen, Cindy K.	18	Myers, Walter Dean	24
Cohn, Janice	37	Paterson, Katherine	24, 25, 37
Conly, Jane Leslie	19	Rogers, Fred	41
Creech, Sharon	20	Rylant, Cynthia	35
Curtis, Christopher Paul	45	Simon, Norma	52
DePaola, Tomie	32	Smith, Doris B.	38
Fassler, Joan	33	Spelman, Cornelia	26
Fletcher, Ralph	28	Tanglvald, Christine Harder	53
Frost, Dorothy	20	Tsuchiya, Yukio	47
Gerstein, Mordicai	14	Varley, Susan	15
		Viorst, Judith	42

Voigt, Cynthia	26
Wilhelm, Hans	43
Winsch, Jane Loretta	53
Yolen, Jane	35

I Had a Dream	
Talking to Myself	
Death of a Friend	
I'll Always Love You	
Liplap's Wish	
Love You, Daddy	
Missing May	
My Grandpa Died Today	
My Mom is Dying: A Child's Diary	
Now I Understand, Now I Feel	
Remembering Talking	
Remembering Home	
One April Morning: The Day I Remember the Oldest	
Remembering	
Mark's Queen	25
Calvin and the	
James	14
Sarah, Please	25
Somebody	53
She	24
Freddie the Leaf	
Tenetsins of Time	

Title Index

A Ring of Endless Light	51	I Had a Friend Named Peter: Talking to Children about the Death of a Friend	37
A Summer to Die	28	I'll Always Love You	43
A Taste of Blackberries	38	Liplap's Wish	33
Across Five Aprils	46	Love You, Daddy	22
After Charlotte's Mom Died	26	Missing May	35
After the Funeral	53	My Grandpa Died Today	33
Annie and the Old One	34	My Mom is Dying: A Child's Diary	22
Badger's Parting Gifts	15	Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs	32
Bridge to Terabithia	37	Nathanial Talking	21
Crazy Lady	19	On My Honor	36
Dad! Why'd You Leave Me?	20	One April Morning: Children Remember the Oklahoma City Bombing	46
Daddy's Promise	18	Park's Quest	25
Dacey's Song	26	Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	14
Everett Anderson's Goodbye	18	Sarah, Plain and Tall	23
Everywhere	32	Someone I Love Died	53
Faithful Elephants: A True Story of Animals, People and War	47	Somewhere in the Darkness	24
Fig Pudding	28	The Accident	41
Flip-Flop Girl	24	The Fall of Freddie the Leaf	51
Grandad Bill's Song	35	The Mountains of Tibet	14
Hiroshima No Pika	47		

The Saddest Time	52
The Tenth Good Thing About Barney	42
The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963	45
Walk Two Moons	20
What Happened When Grandma Died	31
What We Do When Someone Dies	50
When a Pet Dies	41
When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death	50
When I Die, Will I Get Better?	27