

2024 BEREAVEMENT – GRIEF & THE HEALING PROCESS RESOURCES

FOR CHILDREN 6 – 9 YEARS

Loss of a parent

The Brightest Star

by Kathleen Maresh Hemery; Centering Corporation, 1998

Molly was scared when her mother was ill and angry when she died. Molly is asked to draw her family and discovers the power of memories.

Daddy's Promise

by Cindy Klein Cohen; Promise Publishing Company, 1997

After Daddy's death, questions of where he is are answered by Mom's candor and dreams of seeing Dad in another place, then understanding car accident.

Everett Anderson's Goodbye

by Lucille Clifton; Henry Holt and Company, 1988

An African American boy deals with his father's death.

Geranium Morning

by E. Sandy Powell; Carolrhoda Books, 2001

A young boy's dad dies in an accident, plus his friend's mom is ill and dying.

A Quilt for Elizabeth

by Bennette W. Tiffault; Centering Corporation, 1992

Grandmother and child make a quilt from Daddy's clothes.

Saying Goodbye to Daddy

by Judith Vigna; Albert Whitman & Company, 1991

Clare is helped by Grandpa and Mom after the death of her father in a car accident.

Loss of a pet

Dribbles

by Connie Heckert; Clarion Books, 1994

An old cat comes into a family and later dies. The remaining cats miss the old one and are very sad but realize that death is part of life.

I'll Always Love You

by Hans Wilhelm; Dragonfly Books, 1988

A boy's dog dies, and the boy realizes that you never stop loving your dog -- or anyone -- even when they die.

The Tenth Good Thing about Barney

by Judith Viorst; Aladdin, 1987

This is a classic tale of cat's funeral.

When a Pet Dies

by Fred Rogers; G.P. Putnam and Sons, 1988

When Your Pet Dies

by Diane Pomerance, PhD; Polaire Publications, 2001

Loss of a sibling

Lost and Found: Remembering a Sister

by Ellen Yeomans; Centering Corporation, 2000

A preschool girl expresses confusing feelings after the death of her sister.

Where's Jess?

by Joy and Marv Johnson; Centering Corporation, 1982

This simple book is for young children who have lost a baby brother or sister.

PRE-TEENS 9-12

Cape by Kevin Johnson

In Cape, Kevin Johnson has crafted an achingly beautiful and honest story about processing and redefining grief after the loss of a loved one. With evocative illustrations by New York Times bestselling artist Kitt Thomas, Cape is a powerful, unforgettable, and necessary story. [Link to Purchase**](#)

Grief is a Mess* by Jackie Schuld*

Grief is a Mess is an illustrated book for grieving children and adults who need a healthy dose of understanding, comfort, and laughter. Through humorous animal illustrations, the book explores how grief is different for everyone and can change without warning. Having lost her mother to cancer, author/illustrator Jackie Schuld uses her illustrations to remind us to be kind to others and patient with ourselves as we find our way through the mess of grief. [Link to Purchase](#)

***The ABCs of Grief* by Jessica Correnti**

Grief is messy and complicated. *The ABCs of Grief* is a children's book that walks through each letter of the alphabet to unpack different aspects of the grief experience. This is the perfect book for children facing grief related to: death, moving, illness, traumatic medical experiences, new diagnoses, natural and manmade disasters, big changes with school or other activities, feeling 'different' from others, abuse, immigration, foster care, absent or distant caregivers, and more. The book includes a QR code that takes you to a freebie download including 30 activities for grieving kids. [Link to Purchase](#)

Death is Stupid* by Anastasia Higgenbotham*

When someone we love dies, adults often say things like, She's in a better place now, or I know how you feel. You do not, one little boy thinks after his grandma passes away. Caught in the swirl of anger, confusion, and fear that accompanies grief and mourning, he doesn't just think death is unfair--he thinks death is stupid. It takes him some time, but when he starts sharing cherished memories of his grandma and working in her garden, he starts to feel just a little bit better. Necessary, beautiful, and ultimately reassuring, *Death Is Stupid* helps make death a little less scary--for kids and adults. [Link to Purchase](#)

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* by Rita Williams-Garcia*

Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen—he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live. Armed with his grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, he runs away from home in search of the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him. [Link to Purchase](#)

The Wolf's Curse* by Jessica Vitalis*

Gauge's life has been cursed since the day he cried Wolf and was accused of witchcraft. The Great White Wolf brings only death, Gauge's superstitious village believes. If Gauge can see the Wolf, then he must be in league with it. So instead of playing with friends in the streets or becoming his grandpapa's partner in the carpentry shop, Gauge must hide and pretend he doesn't exist. But then the Wolf comes for his grandpapa. And for the first time, Gauge is left all alone, with a bounty on his head and the Wolf at his heels. A young feather collector named Roux offers Gauge assistance, and he is eager for the help. But soon the two--both recently orphaned--are questioning everything they have ever believed about their village, about the Wolf, and about death itself. Narrated by the sly, crafty Wolf, Jessica Vitalis's debut novel is a vivid and literary tale about family, friendship, belonging, and grief. [Link to Purchase](#)

Pie in the Sky* by Remy Lai*

When Jingwen moves to a new country, he feels like he's landed on Mars. School is torture, making friends is impossible since he doesn't speak English, and he's often stuck looking after his (extremely irritating) little brother, Yanghao. All while grieving the loss of his father who loved to bake. To distract himself from the loneliness, Jingwen daydreams about making all the cakes on the menu of Pie in the Sky, the bakery his father had planned to open before he unexpectedly passed away. The only problem is his mother has laid down one major rule: the brothers are not to use the oven while she's at work. As Jingwen and Yanghao bake elaborate cakes, they'll have to cook up elaborate excuses to keep the cake making a secret from Mama. [Link to Purchase](#)

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL AGES 12-14

The Boy in the Black Suit

Author: Jason Reynolds

Publisher: Faber and Faber

Interest age: 14-15

Reading age: 14+

When Matt's mum tragically dies from cancer, it feels like all the joy is sucked out of his life. Then he meets a girl called Love. This is a profoundly beautiful, open-hearted, funny, tear-jerking, readable and relatable story, which explores grief in the truest sense.

The Girl Who Became A Tree

Author: Joseph Coelho **Illustrator:** Kate Milner

Publisher: Otter-Barry Books

Interest age: 12-14

Reading age: 12+

In Joseph Coelho's story told in poems, the ancient Greek myth of Daphne and Apollo is seamlessly woven into the modern-day tale of a 14 year old girl who becomes lost in the tangled woods of her grief and anger .

Catching Teller Crow

Author: Ambelin Kwaymullina and Ezekiel Kwaymullina

Publisher: Penguin

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12+

A beautifully told, outstanding and thought-provoking novel. Themes of race and the treatment of Aboriginal peoples interweave with those of grief and letting go, but without ever becoming overbearing, with the focus on the town's mystery.

Out of the Blue

Author: Sophie Cameron

Publisher: Macmillan

Interest age: 13-18

Reading age: 10+

Angels are falling from the sky, and it is 17-year-old Jaya who finds a live one. The urgent drama of saving the angel plays out against Jaya's grief for her dead mother. *Out of the Blue* is a unique, charming novel by a powerful writer.

Long Way Down

Author: Jason Reynolds **Illustrator:** Chris Priestley

Publisher: Faber

Interest age: 12-16

Reading age: 12+

Written in verse, *Long Way Down* is breathtakingly gripping and spectacular. You almost read it without breathing; the action is so tense, the language so powerful. Give it to every teenager you know!

GENERAL BOOK LIST

Albom, Mitch tuesdays with Morrie -an old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson

Random books 1997 After not seeing his mentor in over 20 years, Mitch decides to visit Morrie, who is dying from ALS, every Tuesday. Their rekindled relationship turns into one final class: Morrie teaches Mitch how to cope with death and how to love life. Highly recommended.

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. Death: The Final Stage of Growth

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. A Letter to a Child with Cancer. 1979

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. Living With Death and Dying.

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. On Children and Death MacMillan, 1983

Kubler-Ross, Elizabeth. On Death and Dying Tavistock

Kushner, Harold S. When Bad Things Happen to Good People Avon books, 1983

Lerner Goldhor Harriet Ph.D., The Dance of Anger - A Woman's Guide to Changing the Patterns of Intimate Relationships Harper & Row 1989 10 East 53rd Street New York., N.Y., 10022 ISBN 0-06-091565-X The dance of anger is a careful and compassionate exploration of women's anger. It will be extremely useful to almost every reader.

Manning, Doug. Don't Take Away My Grief Harper & Row, 1984

Manning, Doug. Comforting Those Who Grieve Harper & Row, 1985

Nuland, Sherwin B. How We Die

Wylie, Betty Jane. Beginnings: A Book for Widows. Ballentine Books, 1984.

Wylie Betty Jane. Life's Losses Macmillan Canada April 1996 @ Chapters Book Store