

Recommended Books about Grief & Loss for Children

This list is categorized by the various types of grief and loss children might experience. Each entry contains information regarding book title, author, and designated ages from 0-5 years.

Grief & Loss—general

I Have Feelings

By Terry Brown

Ages: 4-8 years

About Dying: An Open Family Book for Parent and Child

By Sarah Bonnett Stein

Ages: 3-6 years

When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death

By Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown

Ages: 2-5

The Grandpa Tree

By M. Donahue

Ages: 3-5

Badger's Parting Gifts

By S. Varley

Ages: 4-5

Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children

By Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen

Ages: 3-5

I Miss You: A First Look at Death

By Pat Thomas

Ages: 4-8

Dribbles

By Connie Heckert

Ages: 4-5

A Fish in His Pocket

By Denys Cazet

Ages: 2-5

Gentle Willow: A Story for Children about Dying

By Joyce C. Mills

Ages: 4-5

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Kisses on the Wind

By Lisa Moser

Ages: 3-5

Sunshine Home

By Eve Bunting

Ages: 3-5

The Lemonade Club

By Patricia Polacco

Ages: 3-5

What's Heaven?

By Maria Schriver

Ages: 3-5

Our Tree Named Steve

By Alan Zweibel

Ages 4- elementary

Funerals

The Happy Funeral

By E. Bunting

Ages: 2-5

The Dead Bird

By Margaret Wise Brown

Ages: 3-5

The Bug Cemetery

By Frances Hill

Ages: 4-5

Our Special Garden: Understanding Cremation

By Karen Carney

Ages: 3-5

Loss of a Sibling

Where's Jess?

By Joy and Marv Johnson

Ages: 3-5 years

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Last Week My Brother Anthony Died

By M.W. Hickman

Ages: 2-5

This Book is For All Kids but Especially For My Sister Libby. Libby Died.

By Jack and Annette Simon

Ages: 4-5

Dancing on the Moon

By Janice Roper and Lauren Grimm

Ages: 0-5

Loss of a Parent

When My Daddy Died and When Mommy Died

By Janice Hammond

Ages: 4-5 years

Everett Anderson's Goodbye

By Lucille Clifton

Ages: 2-5 years

A Quilt for Elizabeth

By B. Tiffault

Ages: 2-5

Saying Goodbye to Daddy

By Judith Vigna

Ages: 3-5

The Brightest Star

By Kathleen Maresh Hemery

Ages: 4-5

Loss of a Grandparent

Why Did Grandpa Die?

By B. Shook-Hazen

Ages: 2-5

Nonna

By J. Bartoli

Ages: 3-5

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The Two of Them

By A. Brandenburg

Ages: 3-5

Nana Upstairs and Downstairs

By T. DePaola

Ages: 3-5

Saying Good-bye to Grandma

By J. Thomas

Ages: 4-5

My Grandson Lew

By C. Zoloto

Ages: 3-5

The Hickory Chair

By L. Fraustino

Ages: 4-5

Good-Bye, Papa

By Una Leavy

Ages: 5

Finding Grandpa Everywhere

By John Hodge

Ages: 4-5

Old Pig

By Margaret Wild

Ages: 3-5

Grandpa's Soup

By Eiko Kadono

Ages: 3-5

Grandma's Gloves

By Cecil Castellucci

Ages: 3-5

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Loss of a Pet

Cat Heaven

By Cynthia Rylant

Ages: 3-5

Jasper's Day

By Marjorie Blain Parker

Ages: 2-5

Tough Boris

By Mem Fox

Ages: 4-5

The Accident

By Carol Carrick

Ages: 4-5

The Tenth Good Thing About Barney

By Judith Viorst and Erik Biegvard

Ages: 3-5

I'll Always Love You

By Hans Wilhelm

Ages: 4-5

Saying Goodbye to Lulu

By Corinne Demas

Ages: 4-5

Goodbye Mousie

By Robie Harris

Ages: 3-5

When Your Pet Dies: A Healing Handbook for Kids

By Victoria Ryan

Ages: 4-5

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Loss of a Loved One (other relative; friend; neighbor; teacher)

Losing Uncle Tim

By M. Jordan

Ages: 3-5

I'll Miss You Mr. Hooper

By N. Stiles

Ages: 3-5

I Remember Miss Perry

By Pat Brisson

Ages: 4-5

It's O.K. to Cry

By L.C. Anderson

Ages: 3-5

The Saddest Time

By Norma Simon

Ages: 4-5

I Had a Friend Named Peter

By Janice Cohn

Ages: 4-5

Always and Forever

By Alan Durant and Debi Gilion

Ages: 3-5

Bear's Last Journey

By Udo Weigelt

Ages: 2-5

If Nathan Were Here

By Mary Bahr

Ages: 5

A Butterfly for Brittany

By Christine Thomas

Ages: 4-5

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I Don't Have an Uncle Phil Anymore

By Marjorie Pellegrino

Ages: 4-5

Chester Raccoon and the Acorn Full of Memories

By Audrey Penn

Ages 4 - elementary

Serious Illness

David Has AIDS

By D. Sanford

Ages: 3-5

The Purple Balloon

By Chris Raschka

Ages: 0-5

When Someone You Love Has Cancer

By Alaric Lewis

Ages: 4-5

Our Family Has Cancer, Too!

By Christine Clifford

Ages: 4-5

Promises

By Elizabeth Winthrop

Ages: 4-5

The Paper Chain

By Claire Blake

Ages: 3-5

Annie Loses Her Leg but Finds Her Way

By Sandra Philipson

Ages: 3-5

What About Me?: When Brothers & Sisters Get Sick

By Alan Peterkin

Ages: 4-5

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My Grandpa Had a Stroke

By Dori Butler

Ages: 4-5

Angel in Blue: The Story of Ashley Martin

By 5th grade students at Smith Road Elementary School

Ages: 4-5

Military Deployment

I Miss You!: A Military Kid's Book About Deployment

By Beth Andrews

Ages: 4-5

Daddy, You're My Hero!

By Michelle Ferguson-Cohen

Ages: 4-5

A Yellow Ribbon for Daddy

By Anissa Mersiowsky

Ages: 4-5

Love, Lizzie: Letters to a Military Mom

By Lisa Tucker McElroy

Ages: 4-5

My Big Brother

By Miriam Cohen

Ages: 4-5

Red, White, and Blue Goodbye

By Sarah Tomp

Ages: 4-5

The Magic Box: When Parents Can't Be There to Tuck You In

By Marty Sederman & Seymour Epstein

Ages: 4-5

Incarceration

My Daddy is in Jail

By Janet M. Bender

Ages: 5

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Mama Loves Me From Away

By Pat Brisson

Ages: 4-5

Visiting Day

By Jacqueline Woodson

Ages: 4-5

Separation / Divorce

Two Homes

By Claire Masurel

Ages: 3-5

Mom and Dad Don't Live Together Anymore

By Kathy Stinson

Ages: 4-5

The Best of Both Nests

By Jane Clarke

Ages: 3-5

At Daddy's on Saturdays

By Linda Girard

Ages: 3-5

When My Parents Forgot How to Be Friends

By Jennifer Moore-Malinos

Ages: 3-5

Was It the Chocolate Pudding?: A Story for Little Kids About Divorce

By Sandra Levins

Ages: 2-5

It's Not Your Fault, Koko Bear: A Read-Together Book for Parents and Young Children During Divorce

By Vicki Lansky

Ages: 3-5

Mama and Daddy Bear's Divorce

By Cornelia Spelman

Ages: 3-5

My Family's Changing: A First Look at Family Break Up

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By Pat Thomas

Ages: 3-5

Dinosaurs Divorce: A Guide for Changing Families

By Laurie & Marc Brown

Ages: 3-5

Let's Talk About it: Divorce

By Fred Rogers

Ages: PreK- Elementary

Fred Stays with Me!

By Nancy Coffelt

Ages - Preschool

Maturational (milestones)/Situational (circumstances) Loss

Bye-Bye Binky

By Brigitte Weninger

Ages: 3-5

Little Bunny's Pacifier Plan

By Maribeth Boelts

Ages: 3-5

I want My Pacifier

By Tony Ross

Ages: 3-5

Little Thumb

By Wanda Dionne

Ages: 3-5

Pacifiers Are Not Forever

By Elizabeth Verdick

Ages: 2-5

My Best Friend Moved Away

By Nancy Carlson

Ages: 3-5

We're Moving

By Heather Maisner Ages: 1-5