

## **Picture Books for Preschoolers and Beginning Readers**

Badger's Parting Gifts by S. Varley All the woodland creatures—Mole, Frog, Fox, and Rabbit—love old Badger, who is their confidante, advisor, and friend. When he dies, they are overwhelmed by their loss. Then they begin to remember and treasure the memories he left them.

Blow Me A Kiss Miss Lilly by NW Carlstrom Sara's best friend, Miss Lilly, is very old, but it doesn't seem to bother her one bit. She eats ice cream for breakfast, brings birthday bouquets to all the neighbors, and makes plum jelly from her tree in the garden. Miss Lilly tells Sara stories of when she was a young girl as they cuddle under the rainbow afghan on her sofa. They even blow each other kisses, their special way of saying they will always be friends. One morning Miss Lilly gets sick and goes to the hospital. Sara misses her and makes a special card with her crayons. She draws the plum tree in the garden, so Miss Lilly can see the plums are almost ready to be picked. Inside, Sara writes.

Cat Heaven by C. Rylant Ms. Rylant's shining artwork illustrates a world of peace for cats in Heaven, where no tree is too tall for exploring, where there is no lack of angels' laps for sleeping. If your child wonders where his or her kitty goes after a happy life on Earth, they can rest assured that all cats "know where the angel cats fly. They'll run past the stars and the moon and the sun... to curl up with God in the sky."

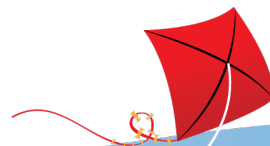
Dog Heaven C. Rylant DOG HEAVEN comforts and brings a tear to anyone who is devoted to a pet. From expansive fields where dogs can run and run to delicious biscuits no dog can resist, Rylant paints a warm and affectionate picture of the ideal place God would, of course, create for man's best friend.

The Invisible String by P. Karst Specifically written to address children's fear of being apart from the ones they love; The Invisible String delivers a particularly compelling message in today's uncertain times.

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages L. Buscaglia This story is a warm, wonderfully wise and strikingly simple story about a leaf names Freddie. How Freddie and his companion leaves change with the passing seasons, finally falling to the ground with winter's snow, is an inspiring allegory illustrating the delicate balance between life and death.

The Goodbye Boat M. Joslin Saying goodbye to someone you love is always hard. Saying goodbye when someone you love dies is perhaps the hardest thing of all. Joslin's simple, thoughtful text and Little's evocative illustrations explore the pain and grief of saying goodbye and open the door to discussion for readers of any age. The Goodbye Boat provides a message of hope that sadness will ease and comforts with the reassurance that death is not the end.

Goodbye Mousie by RH Harris One morning a boy finds that his pet, Mousie, won't wake up. The truth is Mousie has died. At first the boy doesn't believe it. He gets very mad at Mousie for dying, and then he feels very sad. But talking about Mousie, burying Mousie in a special box, and saying good-bye helps this boy begin to feel better about the loss of his beloved pet.



Grandma's Scrapbook by J. Nobisso A scrapbook of memorabilia chronicles the tender and sometimes zany moments shared between Grandma and her granddaughter during their seaside summers. Pages of the lively scrapbook are interspersed with watercolor-rendered photographs of the girl, now a teenager, as she reminisces about their relationship. The last summer in the scrapbook reveals how their roles have changed. Now the girl guides Grandma's wheelchair to places Grandma once brought her on the back of her bike or in a stroller. This poignant story uplifts and dignifies the experience of aging and loss, tingeing it not with sadness, but with hope and wonder.

Grandpa Loved by J. Nobisso This is a recollection of the special times a young boy spent with his grandfather in the city, in the forest with the animals, at the beach, and with his family. Although the boy misses his beloved grandpa's presence he feels assured that his passing has brought him to a better place and he knows that his grandpa's love will always be with him.

I Heard Your Daddy Died M. Scrivani This book is a simple and helpful tool for family members and caregivers to read to the child who has lost a parent. This book lets the child know it is okay for them to cry and be sad as well as be happy and play. The book includes many ideas to help the child to remember their parent.

I Heard Your Mommy Died M. Scrivani Helps children cope with the death of a mother by examining the feelings they experience and the changes in their lives.

I'll Always Love You by H. Wilhelm "In this gentle, moving story, Elfie, a dachshund, and her special boy progress happily through life together. One morning Elfie does not wake up. The family grieves and buries her. The watercolor illustrations, tender and warm in color and mood, suit the simple text perfectly."--  
*School Library Journal.*

I Miss You: A First Look at Death by P. Thomas When a close friend or family member dies, it can be difficult for children to express their feelings. This book helps boys and girls understand that death is a natural complement to life, and that grief and a sense of loss are normal feelings for them to have following a loved one's death. Titles in this sensitively presented series explore the dynamics of various relationships experienced by children of preschool through early school age. Kids are encouraged to understand personal feelings and social problems as a first step in dealing with them.

Lost and Found: Remembering a Sister by E. Yeomans "We lost Paige. That's what my Grandma said "lost". My Parents said she died. I wondered if I could find her again." So, begins the story of one child's search for understanding after the death of her sister. If someone could be "lost" could they also be "found"? Dealing with her own grief and accepting the emotions of those around her this child finds her way toward healing.

Meggie's Magic by A. Dean and C. Stephens "When Meggie was eight, she got sick and died. Now there's just Mummy, Daddy and me". So, begins the story about a family coming to terms with the death of a child. Through the viewpoint of Meggie's sister, we come to realize that the magic of times shared with loved ones lives on in our memory.

A Story for Hippo by S. Puttock When his best friend Hippo, who is the oldest and sagest animal in the jungle, dies, Monkey is devastated and wonders what he will do without his friend who always told him stories and laughed at his jokes, in a touching book that shows young readers how to cope with loss.



Sweet, Sweet Memory by J. Woodson Sarah and her grandmother feel sad when Grandpa dies, but as time passes, funny memories of him make them laugh and feel better, in a moving picture book which balances sadness and mourning with the comforting notion of the continuity of all life.

A Terrible Thing Happened by M. Holmes After Sherman sees something terrible happen, he becomes anxious and then angry, but when a counselor helps him talk about these emotions he feels better.

This Book is For All Kids, But Especially My Sister Libby. Libby Died. J. Simon and A. Simon Jack Simon was five years old when his sister, Libby, died. She'd been born with a rare disorder and wasn't expected to survive six months. But she lived three and a half years, giving Jack plenty of time to get to know her. When she died, Jack struggled to understand how God could take away his little sister. Everyone experiences grief, but children express it differently. Afraid to ask questions that might make someone sadder, children often keep their sorrow locked inside. Jack's mom, Annette, encouraged her son to talk about his pain, and she insightfully began a diary. Jack's questions eventually became the picture book This Book Is for All Kids, but Especially My Sister Libby. Libby Died.

We Were Gonna Have a Baby, But We Had An Angel Instead by P. Schwiebert Created especially for children who are suffering the loss of their families pregnancy.

When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death by L. Krasny No one can really understand death, but to children, the passing away of a loved one can be especially perplexing and troublesome. This is true whether the loss is a classmate, friend, family member, or pet. This succinct and thorough guide helps dispel the mystery and negative connotations associated with death. This helpful book provides answers to kids' most-often asked questions and explores the feelings we may have regarding the death of a loved one, and the ways to remember someone after he or she has died.

When I Die, Will I get Better? by J. Breebaart A five-year-old boy tries to attain an understanding of the sudden illness and death of his younger brother through inventing a story about death in a animal neighborhood, a story his father illustrates for him.

Where's Jess: For Children Who Have a Brother or Sister Die by R. & J. Goldstein Written after Ray and Jody Goldstein's daughter, Jess, died at age nine months. Simple and easy for children to understand. For siblings who had baby at home.

Why Did Grandpa Die? A Book about Death by B Shook-Hazen & B. Berk A Touching book about death.

**Questions or concerns, please contact  
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