Children’s Books about Death and Dying
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Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

A selection of books available in the Curriculum Materials Center that address the issues of death, dying and grief for children in Grades PreK-8.

**Picture Books**

When they find a dead bird, a group of children bury it in the woods, sing a song to it, and put flowers on the grave.
*Call Number: PJ Bro 1985*

After the death of her Indian great-grandmother, Jamie remembers the many special things the old woman shared with her about the natural world.
*Call Number: PJ Bru*

Patrick misses Grandpa, especially at Christmas, but his mother helps him to remember happy times with Grandpa and to use what Grandpa taught him to make Christmas happy for himself.
*Call Number: PJ Caz*

Everett Anderson has a difficult time coming to terms with his grief after his father dies.
*Call Number: PJ Cli*

When Jim’s dog is killed, the other 1st graders experience with him his reactions to death.
*Call Number: PJ Coh*

Four-year-old Tommy enjoys his relationship with both his grandmother and great-grandmother, but eventually learns to face their inevitable death.
*Call Number: PJ DeP*

Xiao Le visits his grandmother and is afraid to play with her because she is frail. His grandmother dies shortly after their visit and now it is his turn to comfort his mother.
*Call Number: PJ Fan*

After dying, a Tibetan woodcutter is given the choice of going to heaven or to live another life anywhere in the universe.

**Call Number:** PJ Ger


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

**Call Number:** PJ Hug


After her beloved grandmother dies, Rosita hopes to be reunited with Abuelita as she prepares a gift to give her when her family celebrates the Day of the Dead.

**Call Number:** PJ Lue


Even though Harry's mother died when he was one, he still has loving family members who can tell him how brave and wonderful she was.

**Call Number:** PJ Por


A prince searching for the Water of Life to cure his dying father finds an enchanted castle, a lovely princess, and treachery from his older brothers.

**Call Number:** PJ Rog


Although devastated when his pet dog dies, a young boy goes trick-or-treating and receives a timely visit from an old friend during a scary encounter with graveyard skeletons.

**Call Number:** PJ Roh


A man tells about all the emotions that accompany his sadness over the death of his son, and how he tries to cope.

**Call Number:** PJ Ros


Isabel, an adopted Salvadoran girl, adjusts to her new life in America by befriending the old dog Bonesy, but then she must deal with her grief when he dies.

**Call Number:** PJ Ros


A mother and her two children are forced to leave everything behind when their father is killed in a war torn country. They are filled with fear as they start over in an unfamiliar place.

**Call Number:** PJ San
After her great-grandmother’s death, a young girl learns about heaven by asking her mother all kinds of questions.
**Call Number:** PJ Shr

After his grandfather’s death, a young boy learns to see the wonders of the world through the old man’s eyes.
**Call Number:** PJ Tho

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

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

**Juvenile Fiction Books**

Describes the relationship of a grandfather and his granddaughter from her birth to his death.
**Call Number:** J Ali

A little Chinese-American girl pays tribute to her grandfather as she assists in the preparations for his funeral.
**Call Number:** J Bun

As Freddie experiences the changing seasons along with his companion leaves, he learns about the delicate balance between life and death.
**Call Number:** J Bus

Nine-year-old Joshua's weekly visits to his beloved grandmother on the Jewish Sabbath give him an understanding of love, family, and tradition which helps him accept her death.
**Call Number:** J Cli

After her sister Laura is murdered in South Africa, Berry and her estranged father travel there to participate in the dedication of a memorial in her name.
**Call Number:** J Com
Rob is drawn by his spunky but angry friend Sistine into a plan to free a caged tiger which takes his mind off his recently deceased mother.
**Call Number:** J DiC

Bird, an artistic young African American boy, expresses himself through drawing as he struggles to understand his brother's drug addiction and death, under the guidance of a family friend.
**Call Number:** J Ell

Cliff describes the excitement, conflict, and sudden tragedy experienced by his large and boisterous family during his eleventh year.
**Call Number:** J Fle

Liam's father has AIDS, and his family cannot talk about it until Liam reveals a secret that he has tried to deny ever since he saw his father embracing another man at the beach.
**Call Number:** J Fox

Sixth-grader Grace, her mother dead and her only sister ill with diabetes, learns to be brave like the pirate queen Grace O'Malley, whom her Irish cousin says she resembles.
**Call Number:** J Gif

A young girl learns to cope with her feelings about her sister's accidental death.
**Call Number:** J Gre

After the death of Ben's friend Sammy he finds a funny, too-big hat that he thinks is magical. His adventures with the hat help some of the more fearsome things in his life become less so.
**Call Number:** J Hel

During the autumn of the year, thirteen-year-old Sarah learns her mother is dying of cancer.
**Call Number:** J Her

Thirteen-year-old Nyle learns about relationships and death when fifteen-year-old Ezra, who was exposed to radiation, comes to stay at her grandmother's Vermont farmhouse.
**Call Number:** J Hes

Although her grandmother has died, a young girl still sees her in all the things living and growing around her.
**Call Number:** J Hoo
Alex Strom writes of the aftermath of the accidental drowning of a friend. His English teacher reaches out to him while he and another boarding school student try to cover things up.
Call Number: J Hub

Chronicles the close friendship between two sisters and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.
Call Number: J Kad

When ten-year-old Maryanne dies, six-year-old Mark-O and the rest of the family become a little wiser about death.
Call Number: J Lee

Thirteen-year-old Meg envys her sister’s beauty and popularity. Her feelings don't make it any easier for her to cope with Molly's strange illness and eventual death.
Call Number: J Low

A teenager trying to recover from the tragic death of his father and stepmother believes himself to be responsible for the rash of teen suicides occurring in his town.
Call Number: J Lyn

A Navajo girl unravels a day's weaving on a rug whose completion, she believes, will mean the death of her grandmother.
Call Number: J Mil

Thirteen-year-old Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident.
Call Number: J Par

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death.
Call Number: J Pat

When her close friend since childhood murders his adoptive parents and kills himself, 17-year-old Lynn is haunted by the tragedy.
Call Number: J Pfe

Aware their grandmother is gravely ill, four siblings learn to realize the value of loss, life, and the importance of being able to say good bye.
Call Number: J Rin
   After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.
   **Call Number: J Ryl**

   Eleven-year-old cousins Linny and Hilary find themselves transported back to their old Brooklyn neighborhood to a time just before Linny's mother died and Hilary's father left home.
   **Call Number: J Sle**

   A young boy recounts his efforts to adjust to the accidental death of his best friend.
   **Call Number: J Smi**

   Getting revenge for the death of her twin brother will be hard for sixth-grader Dimple Dorfman, especially because she thinks that he was shot by the boy she likes best in her small town.
   **Call Number: J Van**

   Cullen's summer is marked by his cousin's overdose death, an alleged spotting of an extinct woodpecker, failed romances, and his younger brother's sudden disappearance.
   **Call Number: J Wha**

   Curious about death, three sixth-grade boys decide to spy on an old man waiting for him to die, but they end up becoming his friends.
   **Call Number: J Yum**

**Juvenile Non-Fiction Books**

   Explains in simple terms the reasons for death, theories on afterlife, burial practices, grief, and the naturalness of death in the chain of life.
   **Call Number: j128.5 Ber**

   Explains in simple language the feelings people may have regarding the death of a loved one and the ways to honor the memory of someone who has died.
   **Call Number: j155.937 Bro**
The death of a friend or loved one can change the way a person sees life. Learn what to expect, how to cope, and the healing process to move forward.
**Call Number:** j155.9 Han

Provides information about death and grief, including the range of feelings after a death, experiencing the death of a family member, and visiting support groups.
**Call Number:** j155.9 Kor

Explains about life and death in a sensitive and caring way with beautiful illustrations.
**Call Number:** j306.9 Mel

Sixteen young people ranging in age from ten to twenty-four describe the fears, sorrow, and other emotions they experienced when a brother or sister died.
**Call Number:** j155.937 Ric

A young boy describes life with his grandfather and his feelings about the man's death.
**Call Number:** j158.24 Tow

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