

JE WILHELM

**PLL ALWAYS LOVE YOU**

*A boy and his chubby hound, Elfie are the closet friend. They share developmental milestone, and secrets. Elfie eventually dies and the boy sadly buries her after openly sharing his grief. He vows that he will tell every pet he owns that he will always love that animal.*

**Grade 3 - 7**

JF COONEY

**THE BELOVED DEARLY**

*Although his father has forbidden it, Ernie, a 12-year-old business tycoon, makes a tidy profit in the pet funeral business. However, when he refuses to give his star employee a raise and the business starts to fall apart, it takes the death of his own dog to bring everyone back together.*

J155.937 B

**DEATH**

*Focuses on death as part of a natural cycle and as part of the entire process of life; also discusses common responses to death.*

J155.937 R

**WHEN A PET DIES**

*Explores the feelings of frustration, sadness, and loneliness that a youngster may feel when a pet dies.*

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*Revised August 2011*

# Coping With Death



## **A Death in the Family**

### **Preschool - Grade 3**

JE BUNTING

#### **THE MEMORY STRING**

*While still grieving for her mother and unable to accept her stepmother, a girl clings to the memories represented by 43 buttons on a string.*

JE BRISSON

#### **I REMEMBER MISS PERRY**

*When his teacher, Miss Perry, is killed in a car accident, Stevie and his elementary school classmates take turns sharing memories of her, especially her fondest wish for each day.*

JE CLIFTON

#### **EVERETT ANDERSON'S GOODBYE**

*After his father dies, Everett Anderson has a difficult time coming to terms with his grief.*

JE HAYNES

#### **GRANDMA'S GONE TO LIVE IN THE STARS**

*In the moments after grandmother has passed away, her spirit is at peace as she says goodbye to her sleeping family and her home.*

JE HOPKINSON

#### **BLUEBIRD SUMMER**

*Gramps's farm isn't the same after Grandma's death, but slowly Mags and Cody work to recreate her spirit by bringing back some of the things she loved.*

JE KAPLOW

#### **SAMANTHA JANE'S MISSING SMILE**

*With the help of her neighbor Mrs. Cooper, Samantha Jane is able to talk about how sad she is since her father died, and then she begins to feel better.*

JE PORTNOY

#### **WHERE DO PEOPLE GO WHEN THEY DIE?**

*Children ask different adults and themselves about death and receive a wide variety of answers. Includes an afterword and suggestions for parents.*

## **Pet Loss**

### **Preschool - Grade 3**

JE CLARK

#### **UP IN HEAVEN**

*When Arthur's dog Daisy dies, she watches over him from heaven and eventually helps him find a new puppy.*

JE COCHRAN

#### **THE FOREVER DOG**

*Mike and his dog Corky plan to be best friends forever, so when Corky becomes sick and dies, Mike is angry about the broken promise.*

JE DISALVO-RYAN

#### **A DOG LIKE JACK**

*After a long life of chasing squirrels, licking ice cream cones, and loving his adoptive family, an old dog comes to the end of his days.*

JE HARRIS

#### **GOODBYE MOUSIE**

*A boy grieves for his dead pet, Mousie, helps to bury him, and begins to come to terms with his loss.*

JE PANK

#### **UNDER THE BLACKBERRIES**

*Sonia and her cat Barnie are inseparable, until the day there is an accident and he goes away for good .*

JE RYLANT

#### **CAT HEAVEN**

*God created Cat Heaven, with fields of sweet grass where cats can play, kitty-toys for them to enjoy, and angels to rub their noses and ears.*

JE SMITH

#### **DESSER, THE BEST EVER CAT**

*A child describes how Desser the cat had always been part of the family and how much he was loved, even after he died.*

JE VIORST

#### **THE TENTH GOOD THING ABOUT BARNEY**

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

## Death of a Friend

### Preschool - Grade 3

JE CARTER

#### **BYE, MIS' LELA**

*At first, Sugar Plum cries when her mother leaves her with Mis' Lela, but the happy days they spend together make Sugar Plum want to remember her, even after she dies.*

JE JEFFS

#### **JOSH**

*Josh has a very good friend in Max. But when Max died in an accident, Josh has a hard time coping with his death.*

JF BUNTING

#### **THE EMPTY WINDOW**

*With his younger brother's help, C.G. captures a wild parrot for his friend who is dying.*

### Grade 7 & Up

YF PECK

#### **REMEMBERING THE GOOD TIMES**

*A story about how two freshmen cope with a best friend's suicide.*

YF WOODSON

#### **MIRACLE'S BOY**

*Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.*

Y155.937 G

#### **WHEN A FRIEND DIES**

*This book reassures teens who have lost a friend that the "feeling" they are experiencing are normal and expected in the grief process.*

JE SPALDING

#### **BOTTLED SUNSHINE**

*During his last summer visiting his grandmother on her island, Sammy helps her make blackberry jam which she calls "bottled sunshine", and after she passes away that winter, Sammy opens her jar of jam to be comforted with the memories of their time together.*

JE SCHICK

#### **MAMA**

*A child remembers special moments with Mama and starts to feel better after grieving over her death.*

JE YOLEN

#### **GRANDAD BILL'S SONG**

*A boy asks others how they felt when his grandfather died and then shares his own feelings.*

JE WOODSON

#### **SWEET, SWEET MEMORY**

*A child and her grandmother feel sad when grandpa dies, but as time passes, funny memories of him make them laugh and feel better.*

### Grades 3-7

JF ADLER

#### **DADDY'S CLIMBING TREE**

*Jessica refuses to believe the reality of her father's death when he is killed in a hit-and-run accident.*

NEWBERY JF RYLANT

#### **MISSING MAY**

*After the death of a beloved aunt who raised her, Summer and her Uncle OB leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.*

J155.937 A

#### **DEATH**

*Uses letters, stories, and informational text to help children cope with the death of a loved one.*

J811.6 G

#### **LOOSE THREADS**

*A series of poems describes how seventh-grader Kay Garber faces her grandmother's battle with breast cancer while living with her mother and great-grandmother and dealing with everyday junior high school concerns.*

## Grades 7 & Up

YF BLUME

### **TIGER EYES**

*Davey Wexler recovers from the shock of her father's death during a hold-up of his Seven-Eleven store in Atlantic City.*

YF CAMERON

### **BEYOND SILENCE**

*After his brother's death, Andrew accompanies his father to the family castle in Scotland where he has several encounters with one of his forebears.*

YF COMAN

### **TELL ME EVERYTHING**

*When her mother dies on a rescue mission on a snowy mountain, 12-year-old Roz wonders if talking to God and the boy for whom her mother died can help her understand what happened.*

YF CONLY

### **CRAZY LADY**

*As he tries to come to terms with his mother's death, Vernon finds solace in his growing relationship with the neighborhood outcasts.*

YF COULOUMBIS

### **GETTING NEAR TO BABY**

*Although thirteen-year-old Willa Jo and her Aunt Patty seem to constantly be at odds, staying with her and Uncle Hob helps Willa Jo and her younger sister come to terms with death of their family's baby.*

YF COTTON

### **FAIR HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT**

*When Michael's beloved grandfather dies, he has a hard time admitting his grief and allowing himself to trust anyone again.*

YF DREYER

### **AFTER ELAINE**

*Gina relives events that preceded her angry, hostile, older sister Elaine's senseless death, as her family struggles with their grief and Gina faces the added pressures of starting middle school.*

YF FERBER

### **JULIA'S KITCHEN**

*When her mother and younger sister are killed, Julia finds a way to deal with her emotions and to reach out to her grieving father.*

YF FOX

### **THE EAGLE KITE**

*Liam's father has AIDS, and his family cannot talk about it until Liam reveals a secret that he has refused to accept ever since he saw his father embracing another man at the beach.*

YF HOLT

### **KEEPER OF THE NIGHT**

*Isabel, a thirteen-year-old girl living on the island of Guam, and her family try to cope with death of Isabel's mother who committed suicide.*

YF KLAUSE

### **THE SILVER KISS**

*A mysterious teenage boy, harboring a dark secret, helps Zoe come to terms with her mother's terminal illness.*

YF MAZER

### **GIRLHEARTS**

*Thirteen-year-old Sarabeth Silver's life is turned upside down when her mother suddenly dies leaving her orphaned, confused, and at the mercy of everyone who seems to know what is best for her.*

YF WOODSON

### **MIRACLE'S BOY**

*Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother.*

Y155.937 L

### **DEALING WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE**

*Focuses on the death of a loved one, grieving, rituals, funerals and memorial services, and adjusting to a new life.*

Y155.937 S

### **DEATH**

*This book examines aspects of dying, from the aging process and clinical death, to funerals and grief.*