



## CHILDREN'S BOOK LIST

Compiled by the NHFA Education Committee

### BOOKS USING ANIMALS AND NATURE TO TALK ABOUT DEATH [for children up to age 12]

- *Badger's Parting Gifts* Susan Varley  
Badger's friends are saddened by his passing, but come to realize that everyone lives on through their gifts of kindness and the happy memories that remain.
- *The Dead Bird* Margaret Wise Brown  
An excellent handling of the subject of death, by the author of *Goodnight Moon*, in which all young children have a natural interest. [ages 4-8]
- *Our Tree Named Steve* Alan Zwiebel  
There are many wonderful messages in this little book. The meaning of family, the joys of nature and being involved with her, the ability of dealing with loss and the lesson of hope and renewal.
- *When Dinosaurs Die* Laura Krazny & Mark Brown  
The authors explain 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.
- *The 10th Good Thing About Barney* Judith Viorst  
The authors explain 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.
- *Charlotte's Web* EB White  
The children's classic about a spider who dies after saving the life of her friend Wilbur the pig.

### BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT THE SERIOUSLY ILL AND TERMINALLY ILL

- *There is a Rainbow behind Every Dark Cloud* Gerald G Jampolsky  
11 children share their experiences with terminal illness and talk about coping with the idea of death.
- *Help Me Say Goodbye* Janis Silverman  
An art therapy and activity book for children coping with death.
- *How to Help Children Through a Parent's Serious Illness* Kathleen McCue and Ron Bonn  
Clearly written and richly researched, this book is a true how-to manual, exploring specific scenarios and offering step-by-step advice. It is sensitive to the needs of different age groups, family situations, and types of illness.
- *Someone I Love is Sick* Kathleen McCue  
A customizable tool to use when talking with children ages 2-6 years old about a parent or grandparent who has cancer.

## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

- *Everett Anderson's Goodbye* Lucille Clifton  
Captures Everett's conflicting emotions as he confronts the painful reality of his father's death.
- *Is Daddy Coming Back in a Minute?* Elke Becker  
Explaining sudden death to preschool children in words they can understand. Beautifully illustrated and thoughtfully expressed. [ages 3-5]
- *Missing Mommy* Rebecca Cobb  
A well written and insightful tool for leading the very young through the five stages of grief. [ages 3-6]
- *Molly's Mom Died* Margaret Holmes  
A child's journey through grief explores feelings after a parent dies and includes a section for caregivers
- *Am I Still a Sister?* Alicia M. Sims  
Reflects the the child-wise discoveries made by 11 year old Allie after her baby brother dies.
- *Where's Jess?* Marvin Johnson  
For siblings who've had a baby or sibling die at home
- *The Empty Place* Roberta Temes  
A nine year old boy explores his feelings and finds positive ways to deal with the loss of his older sister.
- *Felipa and the Day of the Dead* Birte Muller  
Translated from Spanish, grandmother (Abuelita) has died and Felipa is looking everywhere for her soul. The day of the Dead rituals and celebrations help her understand.
- *Annie and the Old One* Miska Miles  
An Indian child resorts to extremes to prevent her dear grandmother from dying
- *My Grandson Lew* Charlotte Zolotow  
Models grieving for children and helps them to articulate what they would like to remember. [ages 4-8]

## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT THE DEATH OF A FRIEND

- *A Song For Cecilia Fantini* Cynthia Astor  
A moving account of a child's reconciliation with death and a stirring tale of ritual healing
- *A Bridge to Tarabithia* Katherine Paterson  
A ten year old boy learns how irrevocably one's life can change in in the course of one short day. A heartwarming book about being different, friendship and loss.
- *A Taste of Blackberries* Doris Buchanan-Smith  
A book about a boy who must come to grips with the tragedy of losing his best friend

## BOOKS FOR TEENS

- *I Will Never Forget You* Emilio Parga  
A writing journal for teens grieving the death of someone they love
- *Straight Talk About Death for Teenagers* Earl Grollman  
How to Cope With Losing Someone You Love Advice and answers to questions teens are likely to ask
- *When Death Walks In: For Teenagers Facing Grief* Mark Scrivani  
Looks at ways of facing grief, including information about going back to school, dreams, and friends

- *I Will Remember You* Laura Dower  
What to do When Someone You Love Dies. Personal stories from teens about death and life, advice from a renowned grief counselor, and dozens of creative exercises to help teens move through pain and sorrow
- *Fire in My Heart, Ice in my Veins: A Journal for Teenagers Experiencing Loss* Enid Samuel-Traisman  
A place where teens can tell the person who died what they want them to know using their creativity to work through the grieving process
- *Weird is the New Normal When Teenagers Grieve* Jenny Lee Wheeler  
A self help book for teenagers written by an actively grieving teen.

### **BOOKS FOR CHILDREN DEALING WITH UNEXPECTED LOSS SUICIDE/ HOMICIDE/TRAUMA**

- *When Something Terrible Happens* Marge Heegaard  
Using the art process to teach children who have witnessed or experienced a traumatic event some basic concepts about trauma
- *A Terrible Thing Happened* Margaret Holmes  
A gently told and tenderly illustrated story for children who have witnessed any kind of violent or traumatic episode, including physical abuse, school or gang violence, accidents, deaths, homicide, suicide and natural disasters such as floods or fire.
- *Someone I Love Died by Suicide: A story for Child Survivors and Those Who Care for Them* Doreen T. Cammarata  
For adult caregivers to read to surviving children following a suicidal death, helping them to recognize normal grieving symptoms and identify healthy interventions to cope with their loss.
- *Reactions: a Workbook for Grieving Kids* Allison Salloum  
An excellent workbook for children working through grief and loss after a violent crime to a family member or self.

### **GENERAL BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT GRIEF**

- *The Boy Who Didn't Want to be Sad* Rob Goldblatt  
A simple yet profound message about facing sadness to have a happy and fulfilled life.
- *The Invisible String* Patricia Karst  
A gentle story that illustrates that we are still connected by love even after someone dies. This would be good for anyone who has suffered a loss through death or separation.
- *Michael Rosen's Sad Book* Michael Rosen  
Sophisticated and honest book on loss that can help children understand adult grief. It explores the experience of sadness as part of the human condition and shows children that they are not alone.  
[ages 8-adult]