



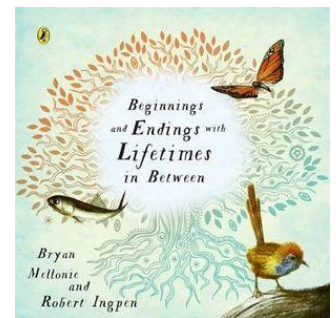
Reading List # 28

DEATH, GRIEF AND LOSS

In PICTURE BOOKS

Beginnings and Endings with Lifetimes in Between by Bryan Mellonie, Robert Ingpen (Illustrator), 2005

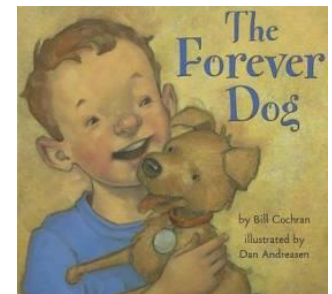
Have you ever wondered why a butterfly lives for only a few weeks? Or why a tree lives for hundreds of years? You may have been sad when someone in your family, or a favourite pet became sick and died. There is a beginning and an ending to everything that is alive. In between is a lifetime. Dying is as much a part of living as being born.



The Forever Dog by Bill Cochran, Dan Andreasen (Illustrator), 2007

No one knows exactly what kind of dog Corky is, but if you ask his owner, Mike, the answer is simple: "He's *my* dog."

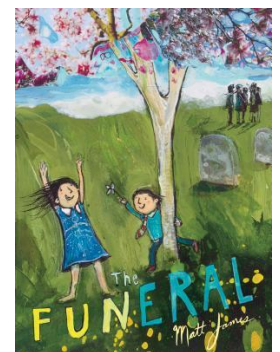
Mike and Corky are best friends; they do everything together. In fact, they even make a plan. Mike tells Corky that they will always do everything together — forever. It is their Forever Plan. And it works well. From one year to the next Corky is right there with Mike. Until one day, when Mike comes home from school and Corky isn't there . . . The story of how Mike comes to accept Corky's death forms a simple, poignant portrait of a special friendship that both celebrates the joys of owning a pet and becomes a heartfelt guide for anyone who is coping with the loss of a loved one.



The Funeral by Matt James, 2018

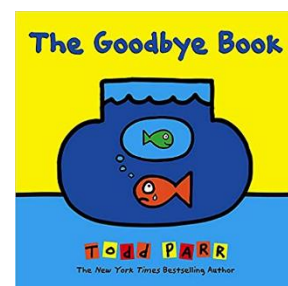
Norma and her parents are going to her great-uncle Frank's funeral, and Norma is more excited than sad. She is looking forward to playing with her favourite cousin, Ray, but when she arrives at the church, she is confronted with rituals and ideas that have never occurred to her before. While not all questions can be answered, when the day is over Norma is certain of one thing — Uncle Frank would have enjoyed his funeral.

This sensitive and life-affirming story will lead young readers to ask their own questions about life, death and how we remember those who have gone before us.



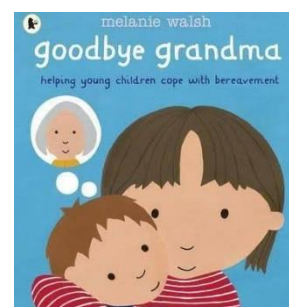
The Goodbye Book by Todd Parr, 2016

A poignant and reassuring story about loss. Through the lens of a pet fish who has lost his companion, Todd Parr tells a moving and wholly accessible story about saying goodbye. Touching upon the host of emotions children experience, Todd reminds readers that it's okay not to know all the answers and that someone will always be there to support them. An invaluable resource for life's toughest moments.



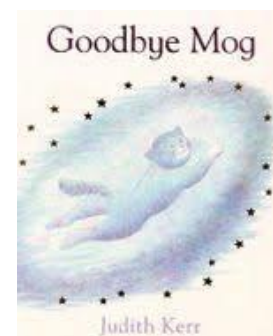
Goodbye Grandma: Helping Young Children Cope with Bereavement by Melanie Walsh, 2015

A book to help very young children cope with death and bereavement. When a little boy is told that his grandma has died, he isn't really sure what death means. In this reassuring lift-the-flap book with bold and colourful illustrations, he asks his mum important questions about death. Why do people have to die? What happens to them once they are dead? What can he do to remember his grandma? Through this gentle dialogue between parent and child, the author sensitively explores the issues surrounding death and bereavement from a child's perspective.



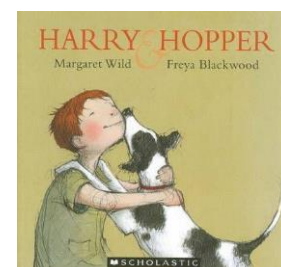
Goodbye Mog by Judith Kerr, 1980

Mog was tired. She was dead tired... Mog thought, 'I want to sleep for ever.' And so she did. But a little bit of her stayed awake to see what would happen next. Mog keeps watch over the upset Thomas family, who miss her terribly, and she wonders how they will ever manage without her. Nothing happens for some time...then suddenly, one day, Mog sees a little kitten in the house. The kitten is frightened of everything – noise, newspapers, bags and being picked up. Mog thinks the kitten is very stupid. But then Mog realises that the nervous kitten doesn't know how to play and just needs 'a little bit of help'. And so, Mog pushes the surprised kitten into Debbie's lap, where it finds it actually likes being tickled and stroked. The new family pet is settled in at last. But Debbie says she will always remember Mog. 'So I should hope,' thinks Mog. And she flies up and up and up right into the sun.



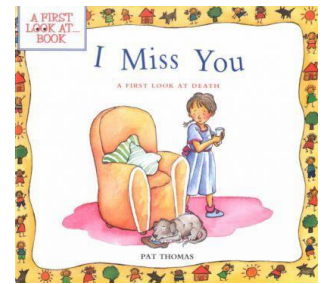
Harry & Hopper by Margaret Wild, Freya Blackwood (Illustrator), 2004

Harry and his dog Hopper have done everything together, ever since Hopper was a jumpy little puppy. But one day the unthinkable happens. When Harry comes home from school, Hopper isn't there to greet him. Hopper will never be there again, but Harry is not ready to let him go. A story that tenderly demonstrates the shock of grief and the sustaining power of love.



I Miss You: A First Look at Death by Pat Thomas, 2007

When a close friend or family member dies, it can be difficult for children to express their feelings. This book helps children understand that death is a natural part of 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. Written by psychotherapist and counsellor, Pat Thomas, these books promote positive interaction among children, parents, and teachers. The story lines are simple and direct--easily accessible to younger children and there are full-colour illustrations on every page.



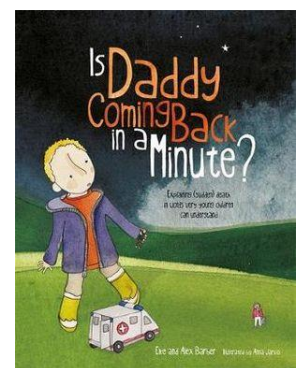
Ida Always by Caron Levis, 2016

A beautiful, honest portrait of loss and deep friendship told through the story of two iconic polar bears. Gus lives in a big park in the middle of an even bigger city, and he spends his days with Ida. Ida is right there. Always. Then one sad day, Gus learns that Ida is very sick, and she isn't going to get better. The friends help each other face the difficult news with whispers, sniffles, cuddles, and even laughs. Slowly Gus realizes that even after Ida is gone, she will still be with him—through the sounds of their city, and the memories that live in their favourite spots. *Ida, Always* is an exquisitely told story of two best friends—inspired by a real bear friendship—and a gentle, moving, needed reminder that loved ones lost will stay in our hearts, always.



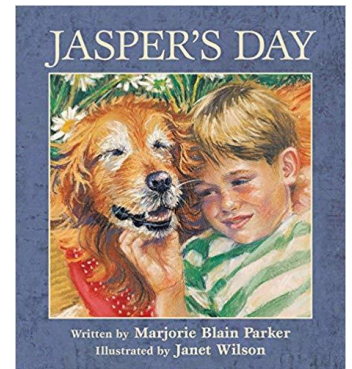
Is Daddy Coming Back in a Minute? by Elke Barber, 2016

This honest, sensitive and beautifully illustrated picture book is designed to help explain the concept of death to children aged 3+. Written in Alex's own words, it is based on the real-life conversations that Elke Barber had with her then three-year-old son, Alex, after the sudden death of his father. The book provides reassurance and understanding to readers through clear and honest answers to the difficult questions that can follow the death of a loved one and carries the invaluable message that it is okay to be sad, but it is okay to be happy, too.



Jasper's Day by Marjorie Blain Parker, Janet Wilson (Illustrator), 2004

Today Riley's family is celebrating Jasper's Day. Everything they do will be in honour of Jasper -- sort of like a birthday. But it isn't Jasper's birthday. The old dog's cancer has gotten really bad. Riley knows they can't let him suffer any longer but letting go will be the hardest thing he's ever had to do. Marjorie Blain Parker's tender story is filled with smiles, tears and the joy of special memories, and Janet Wilson's gentle pastels capture the depth of love shared by a boy and his dog. Together, they speak of acceptance, remembrance and the importance of cherishing life's every moment.



Jenny Angel by Margaret Wild, Anne Spudvillas (Illustrator), 1999

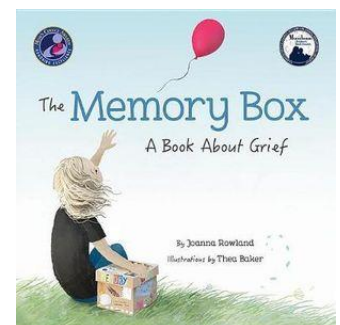
A gentle book for young children with the themes of hope, dying, death, denial and acceptance. Jenny thinks she is a guardian angel who can prevent her younger brother from dying. Her mother helps her accept reality.



The Memory Box: A Book about Grief by Joanna Rowland, Thea Baker (Illustrator), 2017

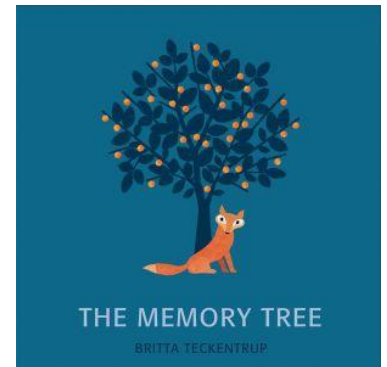
"I'm scared I'll forget you..."

From the perspective of a young child, the author artfully describes what it is like to remember and grieve a loved one who has died. The child in the story creates a memory box to keep mementos and written memories of the loved one, to help in the grieving process. Heartfelt and comforting, *The Memory Box* will help children and adults talk about this very difficult topic together. The unique point of view allows the reader to imagine the loss of any they have loved - a friend, family member, or even a pet. A parent guide in the back includes expert information on helping children manage the complex and difficult emotions they feel when they lose someone they love, as well as suggestions on how to create their own memory box.



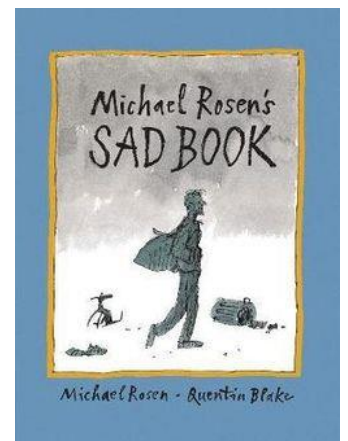
The Memory Tree by Britta Teckentrup, 2014

A beautiful and heartfelt story about the death of a loved one and the memories that comfort those left behind. Fox has lived a long and happy life in the forest. One day, he lies down in his favourite clearing, takes a deep breath, and falls asleep for ever. Before long, Fox's friends begin to gather in the clearing. One by one, they tell stories of the special moments that they shared with Fox. As they share their memories, a tree begins to grow, becoming bigger and stronger, sheltering and protecting all the animals in the forest, just as Fox did when he was alive. This gentle and comforting tale celebrates life and the memories that are left behind when a loved one dies.



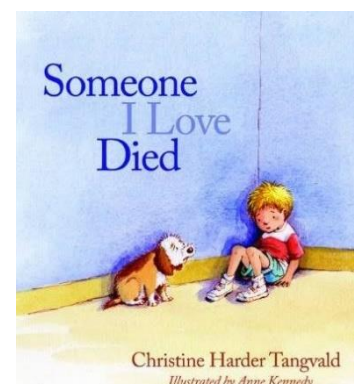
Michael Rosen's Sad Book by Michael Rosen, Quentin Blake (Illustrator), 2004

A heartbreakingly honest account of a father's grief for his son from the illustrious pairing of two former Children's Laureates. It chronicles Michael's grief at the death of his son Eddie from meningitis at the age of 19. A moving combination of sincerity and simplicity, it acknowledges that sadness is not always avoidable or reasonable and perfects the art of making complicated feelings plain.



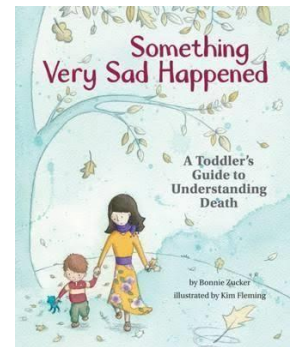
Someone I Love Died by Christine Harder Tangvald, 2018

An updated and revised edition of the author's classic book of comfort for grieving children, filled with heart-healing words, fresh watercolour illustrations, and practical resources that help adults guide children through loss. First published in 1988, *Someone I Love Died* has long comforted the hearts of children 4 to 8 who have lost someone close. It gently leads children through grief with age-appropriate words and solid truth that understands a child's hurting heart. Once complete, children create a memory book of the loved one's life. It also offers grown-ups a tool that turns what could be a difficult time into a meaningful way of healing.



Something Very Sad Happened by Bonnie Zucker, Kim Fleming (Illustrator), 2016

When a loved one dies, it can be hard to know how to explain it to a young child, particularly if you are grieving the loss yourself. Sensitively written and gently illustrated, *Something Very Sad Happened* explains death in developmentally appropriate terms for two- and three-year-old children. It reassures the child that it is okay to feel sad, and that love never dies.

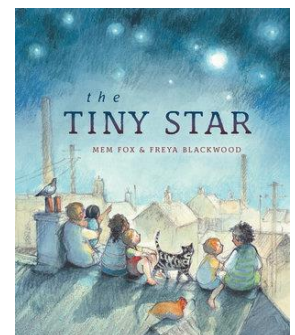


Includes a note to parents and caregivers with more information about how to talk about death, how to answer your child's questions, and how to maintain your connection throughout the grieving process.

The Tiny Star by Mem Fox, Freya Blackwood (Illustrator), 2019

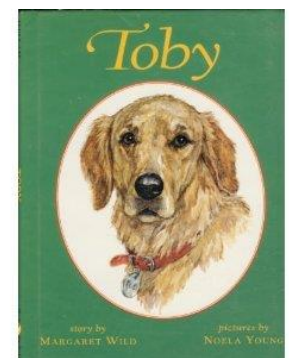
'Once upon a time, although this happens all the time, a tiny star fell to earth . . .'

This touching and timeless story combines, for the first time, the talents of world-renowned author Mem Fox with the heart-warming illustrations of Freya Blackwood. These two luminaries craft a truly unique and moving story about the journey of life and death to be and shared for generations to come.



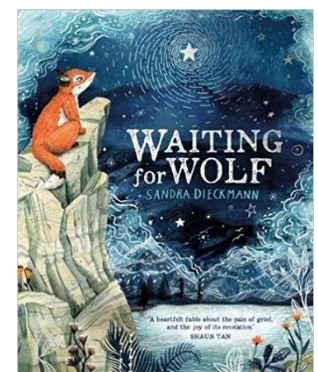
Toby by Margaret Wild, Noela Young (Illustrator), 1993

Toby is an old dog--and sick, too. He's going blind and deaf and sometimes he smells bad. The family is gentle and loving with him--except for Sara. Margaret Wild has written a deeply affecting story about the loss of a beloved pet that explores the many ways of loving and grieving and adapting to change.



Waiting for Wolf by Sandra Dieckmann, 2019

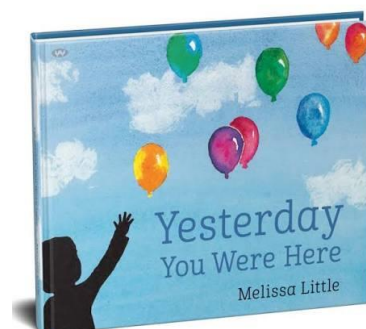
Fox and Wolf spend all their perfect days together - talking and laughing for hours, swimming together in the big blue lake, and watching the stars come out, one by one. Until one day, Wolf is gone. A beautiful and moving picture book about learning to carry on after the death of a loved one, stunningly illustrated by an outstanding new picture book author. Perfect for sharing, it will bring comfort to both children and parents.



Yesterday You Were Here by Melissa Little, 2018

This touching, carefully sparse picture book for young readers aims to help young people dealing with the loss of a loved one to process and talk about their grief. 'In sadness this book will be a kind friend.'

Based on a true story of a mother's loss and her difficulty in explaining this to her sons' friends.



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