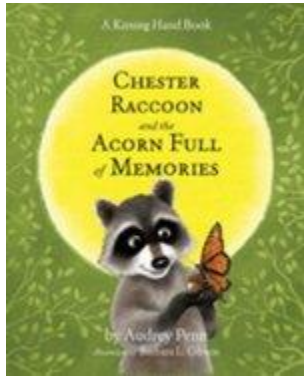
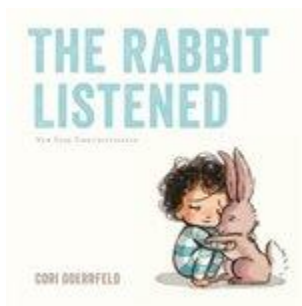


What is Death?



Chester Raccoon and the Acorn full of Memories – by Audrey Penn

After his friend Skiddel Squirrel dies in an accident, the title character copes with this loss and learns to share and appreciate memories of their times together.



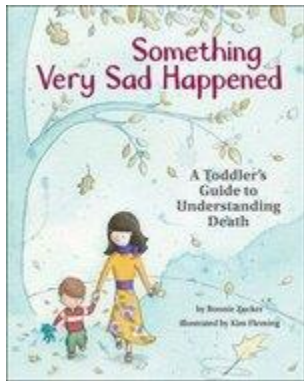
The Rabbit Listened – by Cori Doerrfeld

When something sad happens, Taylor doesn't know where to turn. All the animals are sure they have the answer. The chicken wants to talk it out, but Taylor doesn't feel like chatting. The bear thinks Taylor should get angry, but that's not quite right either. One by one, the animals try to tell Taylor how to act, and one by one they fail to offer comfort. Then the rabbit arrives. All the rabbit does is listen . . . which is just what Taylor needs.



The Invisible String – by Patrice Karst

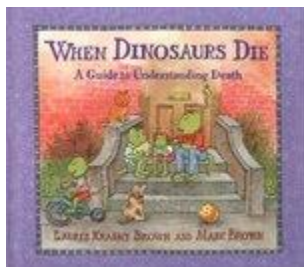
This is an extremely popular book, selling millions of copies. It's all about the connections that love makes. When Liza and Jeremy run to their mother during a scary storm, she comforts them by telling them about the Invisible String, which connects people who love each other no matter where they are and means that they are never alone.



Something Very Sad Happened – by Bonnie Zucker

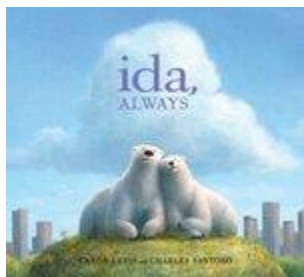
This book is perfect for toddlers and young ones who just don't understand. Sensitively written and gently illustrated, *Something Very Sad Happened* explains death in developmentally appropriate terms for two- and three-year-old children. It reassures the child that it is okay to feel sad, and that love never dies.

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



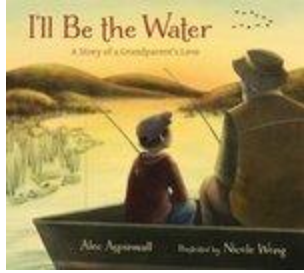
When Dinosaurs Die – by Laurie Brown and Marc Brown

This guide to death and grief tackles topics like what "dead" and "alive" mean, the feelings that death evokes, how to say goodbye and how to remember someone after they're gone.



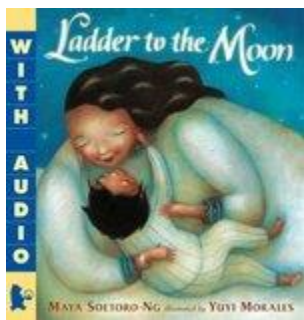
Ida, Always – by Caron Levis

Levis shares the beautiful story of two city zoo polar bears, Gus and Ida, and their feelings when Ida becomes sick with an illness that cannot be healed and later dies. It beautifully explores the turbulent range of emotions felt when a loved one becomes terminally ill, with a focus on making the most of the time we have left with sick loved ones. This is one of the most poignant books about love and loss I have read.



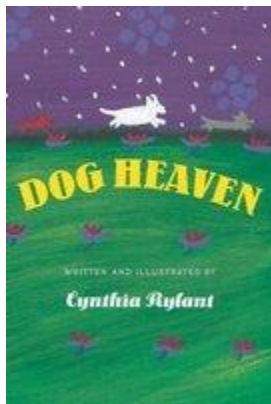
I'll be the Water – by Aspinwall Alec

The love of a grandparent lasts forever. Aspinwall offers a series of beautiful similes, allowing even young readers to understand how love can continue even after a person has passed. While feelings of pain, betrayal, and anger are acknowledged, it is a warm, embracing, and unbroken love that remains. A comforting and meaningful addition to stories about loss and grieving.

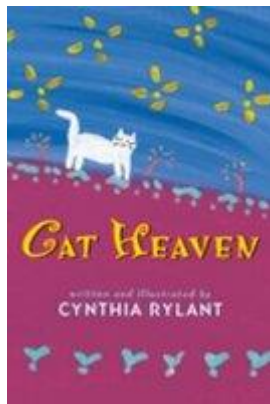


Ladder to the Moon – by Maya Soetoro-Ng

From Maya Soetoro-Ng, sister of President Obama, comes a lyrical story relaying the loving wisdom of their late mother to a young granddaughter she never met. Little Suhaila wishes she could have known her grandma, who would wrap her arms around the whole world if she could, Mama says. And one night, Suhaila gets her wish when a golden ladder appears at her window, and Grandma Annie invites the girl to come along with her on a magical journey. In a rich and deeply personal narrative, Maya Soetoro-Ng draws inspiration from her mother's love for family, her empathy for others, and her ethic of service to imagine this remarkable meeting. Evoking fantasy and folklore, the story touches on events that have affected people across the world in our time and reaffirms our common humanity.



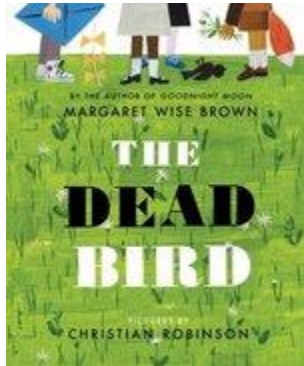
Dog Heaven &



Cat Heaven – by Cynthia Rylant

A comforting and playful exploration of a beloved dog's journey after a happy life on Earth. In Newbery Medalist Cynthia Rylant's classic bestseller, the author comforts readers young and old who have lost a dog, as she did for cats in the bestselling companion book, CAT HEAVEN. Recommended highly by pet

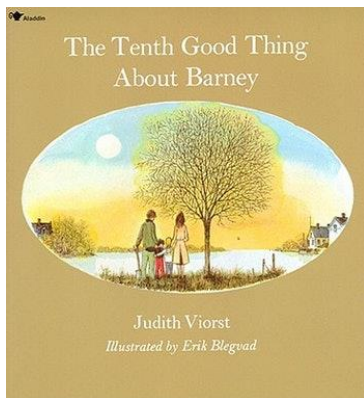
lovers around the world, DOG HEAVEN not only comforts but also brings a tear to anyone who is devoted to a pet. From expansive fields where dogs can run and run to delicious biscuits no dog can resist, Rylant paints a warm and affectionate picture of the ideal place God would, of course, create for man's best friend.



The Dead Bird – by Christian Robinson

One day, the children find a bird lying on its side with its eyes closed and no heartbeat. They are very sorry, so they decide to say good-bye. In the park, they dig a hole for the bird and cover it with warm sweet-ferns and flowers. Finally, they sing sweet songs to send the little bird on its way.

A beautiful book to share with children beginning to grapple with loss.

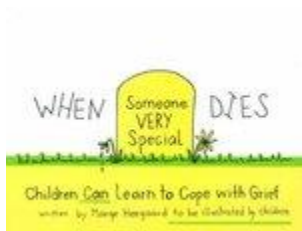


The Tenth Good Thing About Barney – by Judith Viorst

Barney was a cat. He died last Friday. And everyone was sad.

They did what most people do when a cat they like dies. They had a funeral. And then they tried to think of good things about him. They wanted to remember him as he was; and they thought about some other things, too.

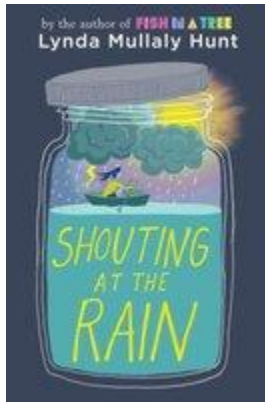
Whenever a cat dies, or a dog, or a bird, or any friend, it can be a little like this story about Barney.



When Someone VERY Special Dies – by Marge McHeegaard

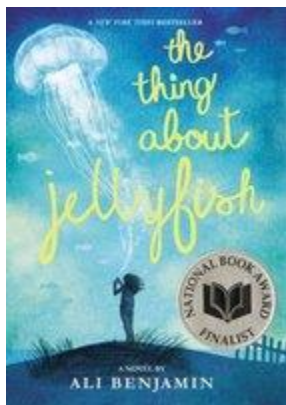
A workbook to help children work out feelings about death. Heegaard provides a practical format for allowing children to understand the concept of death and develop coping skills for life. Children, with the supervision of an adult, are invited to illustrate and personalize their loss through art. When Someone Very Special Dies encourages the child to identify support systems and personal strengths.

Chapter Books:



Shouting at the Rain – by Lynda Hunt

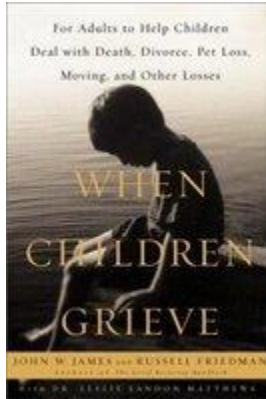
This book is about a girl and her friend who both struggle with different kinds of losses. They both learn what it means to be angry versus sad, broken versus whole, and abandoned versus loved. And that, together, they can weather any storm.



The Thing about Jellyfish – by Ali Benjamin

After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

For Parents:

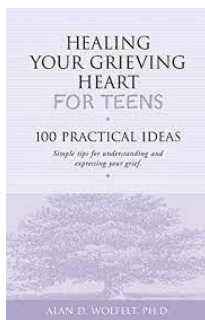


When Children Grieve – by John James

Following deaths, divorces, or the confusion of major relocation, many adults tell their children "don't feel bad." In fact, say the authors of the highly praised *The Grief Recovery Handbook*, feeling bad or sad is precisely the appropriate emotion attached to sad events. Encouraging a child to bypass grief without completion can cause unseen long-term damage.

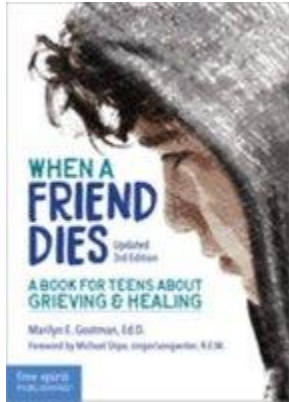
When Children Grieve helps parents break through the misinformation that surrounds the topic of grief. It pinpoints the six major myths that hamper children in adapting to life's inevitable losses. Practical and compassionate, it guides parents in creating emotional safety and spells out specific actions to help children move forward successfully.

Teens:



Healing your grieving heart for teens: 100 practical ideas – by Alan Wolfelt

Provides tips for understanding and expressing grief and offers practical ideas and suggested activities to help teens move through their pain.



When a Friend Dies – By Marilyn Gootman

The death of a friend is a wrenching event for anyone at any age and can spark feelings that range from sadness to guilt to anxiety. Teenagers especially need help coping with grief and loss. This sensitive book answers questions grieving teens often have, like "How should I be acting?" "How long will this last?" and "What if I can't handle my grief on my own?" The book also addresses the complicated emotions that can accompany the death of an acquaintance, as opposed to a close friend. The advice is gentle, non-preachy, and compassionate; recommended for parents and teachers of teens who have experienced a painful loss.