



Death and Dying

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
	EASY	
PreK - 2	Bagley, Jessica. <i>Boats for Papa</i> . New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2015. Buckley and his mother cope with the loss of their father/husband by sending small wooden boats, built by Buckley, off into the ocean.	E B1467B
K - 4	Bateman, Teresa. <i>Keeper of Soles</i> . New York: Holiday House, 2006. A shoemaker repeatedly outwits a black-robed figure who knocks on the shoemaker's door and demands his soul.	E B317K
K - 3	Becker, Aaron. <i>A Stone for Sascha</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2018. A young girl, still reeling from her dog's death, finds solace while picking up stones on the beach during her family's vacation.	E B38838S
N/A	Bode, Ann, and Rien Broere. <i>I Miss You, Grandad</i> . Mankato, MN: Amicus, 2011. Tom's family helps him to understand his grandfather's death, but he, himself, figures out how to get a message to his beloved Grandad.	E B6318IM

feels the deceased would have liked the funeral.

- 2 - 5 Jeffers, Oliver. *The Heart and the Bottle*. New York: Philomel Books, 2010. E
J3555H
- After safeguarding her heart in a bottle hung around her neck, a girl finds the bottle growing heavier and her interest in things around her becoming smaller.
- K - 4 Lobel, Gillian. *Moonshadow's Journey*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 2009. E
L78354M
- When his beloved grandfather is killed in a storm while leading the swan flock south for the winter, Moonshadow is reassured by his father that the flock will go on with Grandfather always in their hearts.
- K - 2 Mathers, Petra. *When Aunt Mattie Got Her Wings*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2014. E
M421W
- When Aunt Mattie dies, best friends Lottie and Herbie console each other and celebrate Aunt Mattie's life by scattering her ashes and preparing her favorite snack--peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (with bananas).
- PreK - 2 Meng, Cece. *Always Remember*. New York: Philomel Books, 2016. E
M5247A
- When Old Turtle dies and is taken back by the sea, his friends remember that he was a wonderful teacher and friend who made his world a better place.
- K - 3 Moundlic, Charlotte, and Olivier Tallec. *The Scar*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011. E
M8625S
- When his mother dies, a little boy is angry at his loss but does everything he can to hold onto the memory of her scent, her voice, and the special things she did for him, even as he tries to help his father and grandmother cope.
- 1 - 3 Oskarsson, Bárður. *The Flat Rabbit*. Toronto, ON; Berkeley, CA: Owlkids Books Inc., 2014. E
OS49F
- When they find a rabbit flattened in the road, a dog and a rat decide to give the deceased animal a proper sendoff.
- K - 3 Portnoy, Mindy Avra. *Where Do People Go When They Die?* Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Copies, 2004. E
P8379W
- Children ask different adults and themselves about death and receive a wide variety of answers. Includes an afterword and suggestions for parents.

PreK - 2	Ringtved, Glenn. <i>Cry, Heart, But Never Break</i> . New York: Enchanted Lion Books, 2016.	E R474C
	Aware their grandmother is gravely ill, four siblings learn to realize the value of loss, life, and the importance of being able to say goodbye.	
PreK - 2	Rohmann, Eric. <i>Bone Dog</i> . New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2011.	E R6364B
	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.	
N/A	Rovere, Amy, and Joel Spector. <i>And Still They Bloom: A Family's Journey of Loss and Healing</i> . Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2012.	E R769A
	Emily and Ben struggle to make sense of their changed world after the loss of their mother to cancer. The children embark on a journey of healing and acceptance as they come to realize they can keep their mother's memory alive- that her love with stay with them always.	
PreK - 1	Sinykin, Sheri C, and Kristina Swarner. <i>Zayde Comes to Live</i> . Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2012.	E SI69Z
	When Rachel's beloved grandfather, Zayde, comes to spend his last days with her family, she worries what will happen when he died, especially after friends tell her the Christian and Muslim beliefs about the afterlife.	
PreK - 2	Wild, Margaret, and Freya Blackwood. <i>Harry & Hopper</i> . New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2011.	E W6438H
	One day, when Harry comes home from school, his faithful companion Hopper isn't there to greet him, in a touching story about the process of healing after losing a beloved pet.	
1 - 4	Yolen, Jane. <i>The Stranded Whale</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015.	E Y78STR
	When Sally and her brother spot a beached whale on their way home from school in Maine, the town races to save the whale. Meanwhile, Sally sits close to the whale's eye and assures the stranded creature of its strength and beauty.	

FICTION

5 - 9	Almond, David. <i>The Savage</i> . Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2008.	F AL68S
	A boy tells about a story he wrote when dealing with his father's death about a savage kid living in a ruined chapel in the woods—and the tale about the	

savage kid coming to life in the real world.

- 8 - 12 Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. New York: Viking, 2009. F
AN2394W
- Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.
- 4 - 6 Appelt, Kathi. *Maybe a Fox*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016. F
AP488M
- An otherworldly fox is born to help eleven-year-old Jules, who is grieving over the death of her sister.
- 8 - 12 Caletti, Deb. *The Last Forever*. New York: Simon Pulse, 2014. F
C12815L
- After her mother's death, it's all Tessa can do to keep her friends, her boyfriend, her happiness from slipping away. Even the rare plant her mother entrusted to her care starts to wilt. Then she meets Henry. Though secrets stand between them, each has a chance at healing...if first, Tessa can find the courage to believe in forever.
- 8 - 12 Crow, Matthew. *The Brilliant Light of Amber Sunrise*. New York: Simon Pulse, 2015. F
C8855B
- Life threatening cancer brings Francis and Amber together, but when Francis's recovery takes a different path from Amber's, he has no idea how to live--or how to let go.
- 8 - 12 Damico, Gina. *Croak*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. F
D184C
- A delinquent sixteen-year-old girl is sent to live with her uncle for the summer, only to learn that he is a Grim Reaper who wants to teacher family the business.
- 8 - 12 Efaw, Amy. *After*. New York: Viking, 2009. F
EF12A
- In complete denial that she is pregnant, straight-A student and star athlete Devon Davenport leaves her baby in the trash to die, and after the baby is discovered, Devon is accused of attempted murder.
- 9 - 12 Forman, Gayle. *If I Stay: A Novel*. New York: Dutton Books, 2009. F
F7648I

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to life with her grief or join her family in death.

9 - 12 Green, John. *The Fault in Our Stars*. New York: Dutton Books, 2012. F
G8234FA

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

7 - 12 Griffin, Adele. *Where I Want to Be*. New York: Puffin Books, 2007. F
G8744W

Two teenaged sisters, separated by death but still connected, work through their feelings of loss over the closeness they shared as children that was later destroyed by one's mental illness, and finally make peace with each other.

8 - 12 Hand, Cynthia. *The Last Time We Say Goodbye*. New York: HarperTeen, 2015. F
H19128L

After her younger brother, Tyler, commits suicide, Lex struggles to work through her grief in the face of a family that has fallen apart, the sudden distance between her and her friends, and memories of Tyler that still feel all too real.

7 - 12 Hardinge, Frances. *The Lie Tree*. New York: Amulet Books, 2016. F
H21982LI

On an island off the south coast of Victorian England, Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father, who was involved in a scandal. She discovers a tree that bears fruit only when she whispers a lie to it-- and the fruit, in turn, delivers a hidden truth. Does the tree hold the key to her father's murder? Or will it lead the murderer to Faith herself.

4 - 7 Henkes, Kevin. *Sun and Spoon*. New York: Harper Trophy, 2007. F
H3893S

After the death of his grandmother, ten-year-old Spoon observes the changes in his grandfather and tries to find the perfect artifact to preserve his memories of her.

9 - 12 Lynch, Chris. *Freewill*. New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2001. F
L9912F

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.

- 9 - 12 McGhee, Alison. *What I Leave Behind*. New York: Atheneum, 2018. F
M173W
- Since his father's suicide, Will, sixteen, has mainly walked, worked at Dollar Only, and tried to replicate his father's cornbread recipe, but the rape of his childhood friend shakes things up.
- 9 - 12 Magoon, Kekla. *How it Went Down*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2014. F
M27583H
- When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white, and in the aftermath, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.
- 7 - 12 Maguire, Eden. *Jonas: Beautiful Dead*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks Fire, 2010. F
M2766J
- When her boyfriend becomes the fourth student at her high school to die over the course of a year, and Darina starts seeing the dead teenagers, she discovers that they have come back to deal with unresolved problems, and she begins helping them, so they can go to their final rest.
- 4 - 6 Martin, Ann M. *Everything for a Dog*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2009. F
M3632EV
- In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own.
- 7 - 12 Moon, Sarah. *Sparrow*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2017. F
M7789S
- Fourteen-year-old Sparrow Cooke struggles with emotional issues and suicidal feelings following the death of her school librarian, who was the only person who seemed to understand her.
- 4 - 7 Nicholls, Sally. *Ways to Live Forever*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008. F
N5157W
- Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.
- 7 - 9 Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. Waterville, ME: Thorndike Press, 2007. F
P2732BRI

Ten-year-old Jesse Aarons, who has lived all his life on a farm in Virginia, becomes friends with Leslie Burke, a "city girl" who has moved into a farmhouse down the road and opens doors to culture and imaginative play. But then tragedy strikes.

- 4 - 6 Pitcher, Annabel. *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece: A Novel*. New York: Little, Brown, 2012. F
P681M
- With his family still grieving over his sister's death in a terrorist bombing seven years earlier, twelve-year-old Jamie is far more interested in his cat, Roger, his birthday Spiderman T-shirt, and keeping his new Muslim friend Sunya a secret from his father.
- 7 - 9 Pixley, Marcella F. *Without Tess*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011. F
P688W
- Fifteen-year-old Lizzie Cohen recalls what it was like growing up with her imaginative but disturbed older sister Tess, and how she is striving to reclaim her own life since Tess died.
- 9 - 12 Rabb, Margo. *Cures for Heartbreak*. New York: Delacorte, 2007. F
R1115C
- As she navigates adolescence, ninth-grader Mia must deal with her mother's recent death and her father's illness while she searches for friendship and love in the world around her.
- 7 - 12 Reynolds, Jason. *The Boy in the Black Suit*. New York: Atheneum Books, 2015. F
R3352B
- Soon after his mother's death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his tough Brooklyn neighborhood and, while attending and assisting with funerals, begins to accept her death and his responsibilities as a man.
- 7 - 12 Rupp, Rebecca. *After Eli*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2012. F
R878A
- After the death of his older brother, Daniel Anderson became engrossed in recording details about dead people, how they died, and whether their deaths mattered but he is eventually drawn back into interaction with the living.
- 7 - 10 Schmidt, Gary D. *Trouble*. Boston: Clarion, 2008. F
SCH53T
- Fourteen-year-old Henry, wishing to honor his brother Franklin's dying wish, sets out to hike Maine's Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

- 7 - 9 Scott, Elizabeth. *Love You Hate You Miss You*. New York: HarperTeen, 2009. F
SCO8385LO
- After coming out of alcohol rehabilitation, sixteen-year-old Amy sorts out conflicting emotions about her best friend, Julia's, death in a car accident for which she feels responsible.
- 6 - 8 Sheinmel, Courtney. *Positively*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2009. F
SH42P
- Thirteen-year-old Emmy, grieving over her mother who died of AIDS, resentful of having to live with her father and pregnant stepmother, and despairing about her future, finds hope at a summer camp for HIV-positive girls like herself. Includes facts about Elizabeth Glaser, one of the founders of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.
- 8 - 12 Shusterman, Neal. *Scythe*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016. F
SH935SCY
- In a world where disease has been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ('gleaned') by professional reapers ('scythes'). Two teens must compete with each other to become a scythe--a position neither of them wants. The one who becomes a scythe must kill the one who doesn't.
- 9 - 12 Stork, Francisco X. *Iris*. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, 2012. F
ST747IR
- Kate, eighteen, and Mary, sixteen, must make some adult decisions about the course their lives should take when their loving but old-fashioned father dies suddenly, leaving them with their mother, who has been in a persistent vegetative state since an accident four years earlier.
- 9 - 12 Valentine, Jenny. *Broken Soup*. New York: HarperTeen, 2009. F
V2348B
- A photographic negative and two surprising new friends become the catalyst for healing as fifteen-year-old Rowan struggles to keep her family and her life together after her brother's death.
- 9 - 12 Waters, Daniel. *Generation Dead*. New York: Hyperion Press, 2008. F
W315G
- When teenagers that die come back to life and are labeled "living impaired" or "differently biotic," they are integrated into the school population, but the living teens don't want them around.
- 6 - 12 Wolfson, Jill. *Cold Hands, Warm Heart*. New York: Henry Holt, 2009. F
W8338C

After sixteen-year-old Tyler convinces his parents to donate the organs of his fourteen-year-old sister, who died during a gymnastics meet, he writes letters to the recipients, including Dani, who finally has a chance at normalcy after living fifteen years with a congenital heart defect.

7 - 10 Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere*. New York: Square Fish, 2007. F
Z611E

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

NONFICTION

4 - 7 Birmingham, Maria. *A Beginner's Guide to Immortality: From Alchemy to Avatars*. Toronto, ON: Owlkids Books, 2015. 130
B5374B

Examines the ways people have tried to achieve immortality throughout history.

N/A McCormick, Lisa W. *Near-Death Experiences: The Unsolved Mystery*. Mankato, MN: Capstone Press, 2009. 133.901
M1374N

Presents the mystery of near-death experiences, including descriptions, theories, and famous examples.

7 - 9 Hanson-Harding, Alexandra. *When a Friend or Loved One Dies: Grieving, Mourning, and Healing*. New York: Rosen Publishing, 2014. 155.9
H1989W

Identifies different ways in which people cope with the death of a loved one, discusses the steps of the grieving process, and offers advice on getting through a difficult loss.

2 - 3 Loewen, Nancy, and Christopher Lyles. *Good-bye, Jeepers: What to Expect When Your Pet Dies*. Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books, 2012. 155.9
L825G

When a pet dies, it can feel like you lost your best friend. What do you do? Whether you had a guinea pig, dog, cat, or fish, this story can help you through the tough times.

2 - 3 Loewen, Nancy, and Christopher Lyles. *Saying Good-Bye to Uncle Joe: What to Expect When Someone You Love Dies*. Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books, 2012. 155.9
L825S

When someone you love dies, you might feel sad, lonely, and confused. What do you do? No matter who your loved one was, this story can help you through the tough times.

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| N/A | Henningfeld, Diane A. <i>Death and Dying</i> . Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2010. | 304.6
D3492 |
| | A collection of twenty-three essays that examines viewpoints on death and dying from around the world, discussing causes of death, end-of-life care, religion, and funeral practices. | |
| 3 - 6 | Thornhill, Jan. <i>I Found a Dead Bird: The Kids' Guide to the Cycle of Life & Death</i> . Toronto: Maple Tree Press, 2006. | 306.9
T3938I |
| | Explores the cycle of life and death, and how the process is necessary in nature, while also commenting on how death effects people personally, and the skills they use to cope with such a trauma when it occurs. | |
| 5 - 9 | Bragg, Georgia, and Kevin O'Malley. <i>How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous</i> . New York: Walker & Co, 2011. | 920
B7305H |
| | A look at the deaths of several famous people throughout history and the circumstances surrounding those deaths. | |

PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION

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| | Oehlberg, Barbara. <i>Making it Better: Activities for Children Living in a Stressful World</i> . St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press, 2014. | 372.146
OE5M |
| | This second edition speaks to the concept of "trauma-informed" early childhood education and includes many activities to help fragile children process and heal from stressful events, including natural disasters, community and family violence, extensive medical treatments, complicated family dynamics, deployment of a parent in the military, and more. | |

Last Updated Feb-23 JD