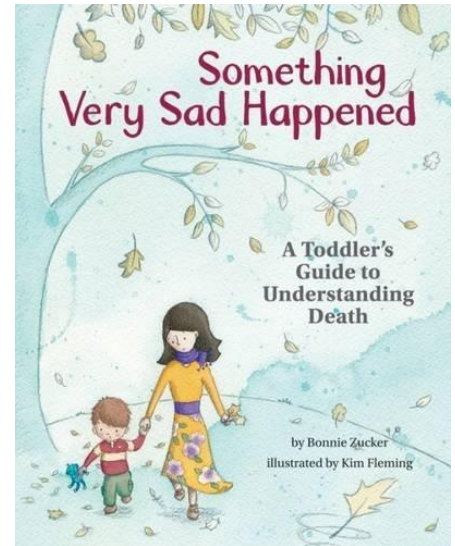


BOOKS FOR KIDS

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN/BOOKS TO BE READ ALOUD

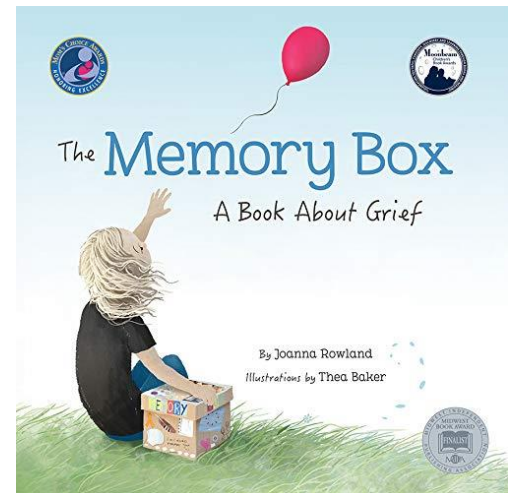
Something Very Sad Happened: A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death by Bonnie Zucker, illustrated by Kim Fleming. Magination Press, hardcover.

Intended to be read to two- and three-year-old children to help them understand death and process the loss of a loved one. Written at a developmental level that is appropriate for two- and three-year-olds, the story explains death; lets children know that it is okay to feel sad; and reassures children that they can still love the person who died, and the person who died will always love them. Since the two- to three-year-old child cannot read, this story is intended to be personalized; certain words are color-coded in red to cue to you to substitute with the appropriate names and pronouns for the person who died. Includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers with more information about talking to children about death, guidelines for answering a child's questions, advice for attending funerals and visiting cemeteries, and ideas for commemorating the loved one. [Well reviewed in School Library Journal and Booklist]



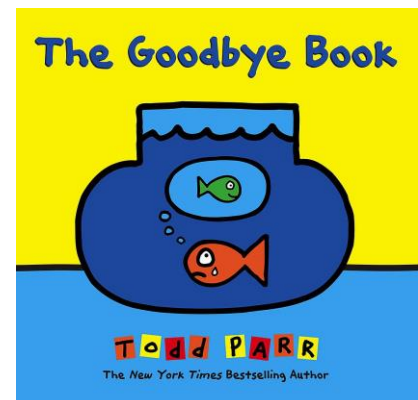
The Memory Box: A Book about Grief by Joanna Rowland, illustrated by Thea Baker. Sparkhouse Family, boardbook.

Joanna Rowland 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 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 Box is a 2017 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards winner.]



The Goodbye Book by Todd Parr. Little Brown, hardcover, e-book.

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. [Well reviewed in School Library Journal]



FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

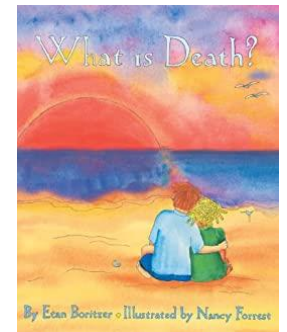
Cry, Heart, But Never Break by Glenn Ringtved, illustrated by Charlotte Pardi, translated by Robert Moulthrop. Enchanted Lion, e-book.

*Aware their grandmother is gravely ill, four siblings make a pact to keep death from taking her away. But Death does arrive all the same, as it must. He comes gently, naturally. And he comes with enough time to share a story with the children that helps them to realize the value of loss to life and the importance of being able to say goodbye. [Well reviewed in *Publisher's Weekly*, Winner of the 2017 Batchelor Award]*



What Is Death? by Etan Boritzer, illustrated by Nancy Forest. Veronica Lake, hardcover, paperback, e-book.

Addresses children's natural curiosity about this difficult subject. Introducing the concept of death with examples of customs and beliefs from different religions and cultures, the book also allows the reader to reflect on themes of tolerance, identity and generosity. Reality-based and using a gentle and comforting tone, WHAT IS DEATH? takes an honest approach and encourages children to embrace the positive in life. In its 7th edition, this book has become a standard part of many grief and loss counselor's professional resources.



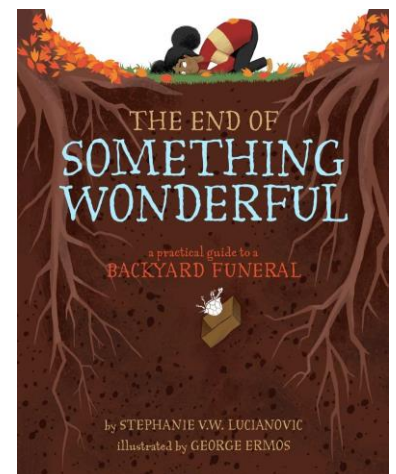
What Happens at a Funeral? by David Crossmeister. Powerkids Press, hardcover, paperback.

Attending a funeral is often an unfamiliar situation for young children. Grieving people experience many emotions, which could make children scared, confused, or uncomfortable. Through accessible language, this book helps readers understand what they might expect during and after a funeral. Full-color photographs introduce places, such as the cemetery, and objects, such as a coffin, that may be seen at a funeral. By providing readers with information about what to expect, they can better cope with their emotions surrounding this new experience.



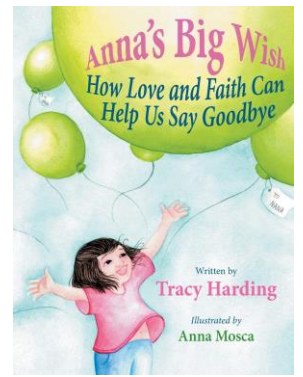
The End of Something Wonderful: A Practical Guide to a Backyard Funeral by Stephanie V. W. Lucianovic, illustrated by George Ermos. Sterling, hardcover, e-book.

Children love their pets very much—and when the animals die, that loss can be hard to process. The End of Something Wonderful helps kids handle their feelings when they're hurting and can't find all the right words. In a warm, understanding, sometimes funny way, it guides children as they plan a backyard funeral to say goodbye, from choosing a box and a burial spot to giving a eulogy and wiping away tears. Most of all, it reassures them that it's not the end of everything . . . and that Something Wonderful can always happen again.



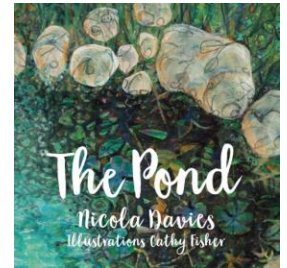
Anna's Big Wish: How Love and Faith Can Help Us Say Goodbye by Tracy Harding, illustrated by Anna Mosca. SPD Publishing, hardcover, e-book.

A charming story about how six-year-old Anna gets her biggest wish of all. Her unusual request is that she really wants to visit her recently deceased grandmother, Nana. With easy to understand and sensitive dialog, young readers can travel with Anna as she gets to say goodbye to her grandmother on her own terms. This beautifully illustrated book and tender story will help children overcome their fears, worries, and concerns about loss of loved family and friends.



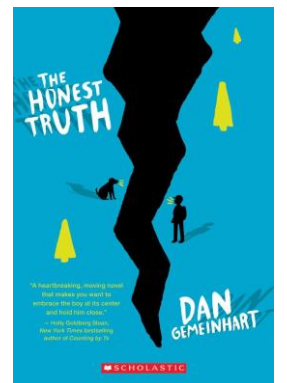
The Pond by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Cathy Fisher. Graffeg, hardcover, paperback, e-book.

A touching picture book for children about a young boy and his family overcoming the loss of his father. This colorful, emotional book is filled with natural imagery, centering on a small pond in the garden, and will teach children not only about death and loss, but the importance of the natural world.



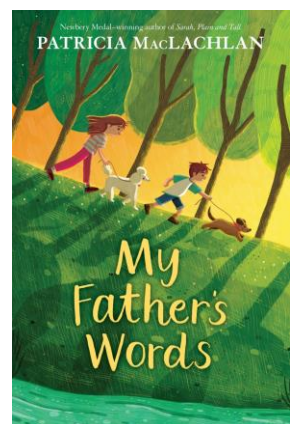
The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart. Scholastic, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier--even if it's the last thing he ever does. The Honest Truth is a rare and extraordinary novel about big questions, small moments, and the incredible journey of the human spirit. [Well reviewed in School Library Journal]



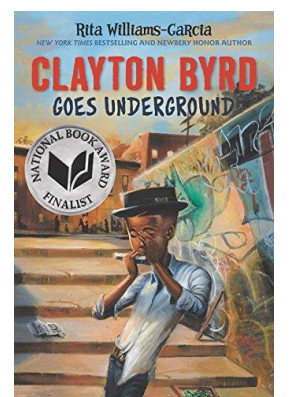
My Father's Words by Patricia MacLachlan. Katherine Tegen Books, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

Declan O'Brien always had a gentle word to share, odd phrases he liked to repeat, and songs to sing while he played basketball. His favorite song was "Dona Nobis Pacem." His family loved him deeply and always knew they were loved in return. But a terrible accident one day changes their lives forever, and Fiona and Finn O'Brien are left without a father. Their mother is at a loss. What words are there to guide them through such overwhelming grief? At the suggestion of their friend Luke, Fiona and Finn volunteer at an animal rescue shelter, where they meet two sweet dogs who are in need of comfort, too. Perhaps with time, patience, and their father's gentle words in their hearts, hope will spark once more. [Newbery Award winning author; Starred reviews in Kirkus, Booklist, well-reviewed School Library Journal]



Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia, illustrated by Frank Morrison. Quill Tree Books, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen—he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live. Armed with his

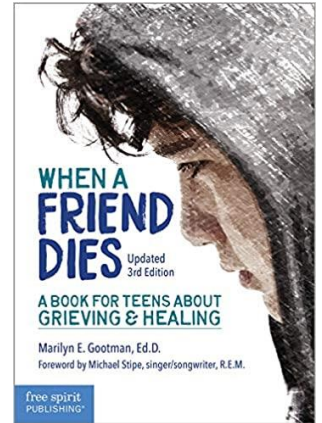


grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, he runs away from home in search of the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him. [National Book Award Finalist; Starred reviews in *Kirkus*, *Horn Book*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *School Library Journal*]

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TEEN

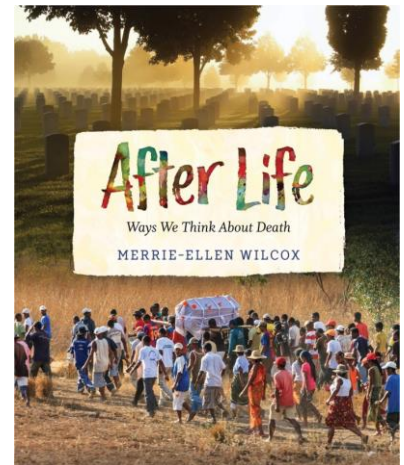
When a Friend Dies: A Book for Teens About Grieving & Healing (Updated 3rd Edition)
by Marilyn E. Gootman Ed.D. Free Spirit, paperback.

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. [Reviewed in VOYA, School Library Journal]



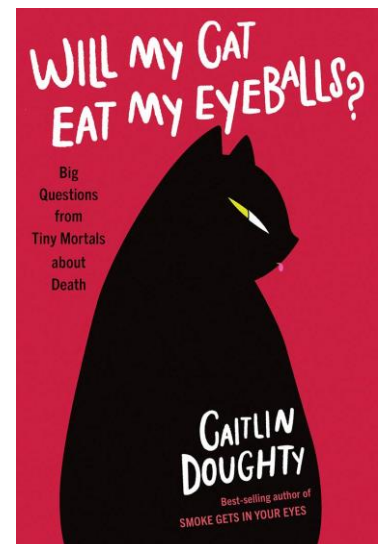
After Life: Ways We Think About Death by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox. Orca, hardcover, e-book.

Why do we die? Why can't we live forever? What happens to us after death? Moving between science and culture, After Life: Ways We Think About Death takes a straightforward look at these and other questions long taboo in our society. By showing the fascinating, diverse ways in which we understand death, both today and throughout our history, the book also shines a light on what it is to be human. Each chapter includes a brief telling of a death legend, myth or history from a different culture or tradition, from Adam and Eve to Wolf and Coyote, and ends with a section on a common theme in our thinking about death, such as rivers and birds in the afterlife, the colors that different cultures use to symbolize death, and, of course, ghosts. The final chapter is about grief, which is both a universal human experience and unique to each person. The text offers suggestions for ways to think about our grief, when to ask for help and how to talk to friends who are grieving. [Reviewed by Kirkus, Booklist, School Library Journal, Horn Book, Publisher's Weekly]



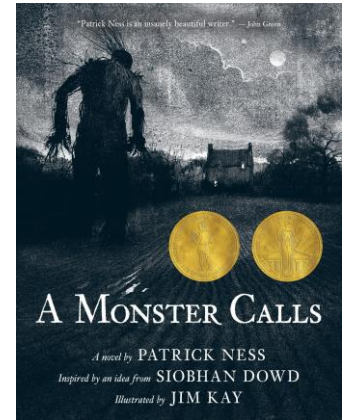
Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs? Big Questions from Tiny Mortals About Death by Caitlin Doughty, illustrated by Dianné Ruz. Norton, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

Doughty blends her mortician's knowledge of the body and the intriguing history behind common misconceptions about corpses to offer factual, hilarious, and candid answers to thirty-five distinctive questions posed by her youngest fans. In her inimitable voice, Doughty details lore and science of what happens to, and inside, our bodies after we die. Why do corpses groan? What causes bodies to turn colors during decomposition? And why do hair and nails appear longer after death? Readers will learn the best soil for mummifying your body, whether you can preserve your best friend's skull as a keepsake, and what happens when you die on a plane.



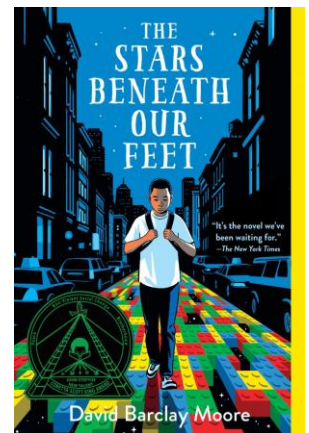
A Monster Calls: Inspired by an idea from Siobhan Dowd by Patrick Ness, illustrated by Jim Kay. Candlewick, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

The monster in Conor's backyard is not the one he's been expecting — the one from the nightmare he's had every night since his mother started her treatments. This monster is ancient. And wild. And it wants something from Conor. Something terrible and dangerous. It wants the truth. From the final idea of award-winning author Siobhan Dowd — whose premature death from cancer prevented her from writing it herself — Patrick Ness has spun a haunting and darkly funny novel of mischief, loss, and monsters both real and imagined. [Won the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals; Starred review in Kirkus, School Library Journal, Booklist]



The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore. Yearling, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward. [Winner of the Coretta Scott King John Steptoe Award for New Talent and soon to be a major motion picture directed by Michael B. Jordan!]



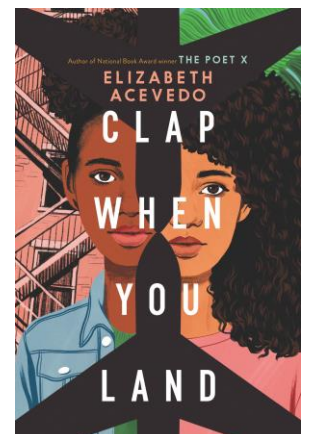
Accidental by Alex Richards. Bloomsbury, hardcover, e-book.

Johanna has had more than enough trauma in her life. She lost her mom in a car accident, and her father went AWOL when Johanna was just a baby. At sixteen, life is steady, boring . . . maybe even stifling, since she's being raised by her grandparents who never talk about their daughter, her mother Mandy. Then he comes back: Robert Newsome, Johanna's father, bringing memories and pictures of Mandy. But that's not all he shares. A tragic car accident didn't kill Mandy--it was Johanna, who at two years old, accidentally shot her own mother with an unsecured gun. Now Johanna has to sort through it all--the return of her absentee father, her grandparents' lies, her part in her mother's death. But no one, neither her loyal best friends nor her sweet new boyfriend, can help her forgive them. Most of all, can she ever find a way to forgive herself? [Well reviewed New York Times]



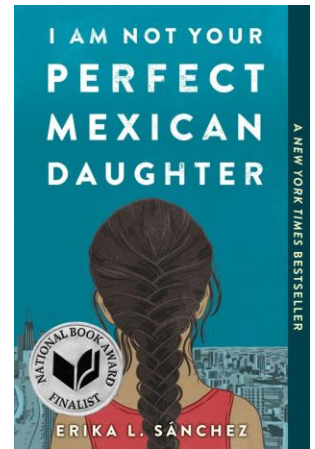
Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo. Quill Tree, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.



I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sánchez. Knopf, hardcover, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family. But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role. Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed. [Reviewed in *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, starred review]



Sorry for Your Loss by Jessie Ann Foley. Quill Tree Books, hardback, paperback, audiobook, e-book.

As the youngest of eight, painfully average Pup Flanagan is used to flying under the radar. He's barely passing his classes. He lets his longtime crush walk all over him. And he's in no hurry to decide on a college path. The only person who ever made him think he could be more was his older brother Patrick. But that was before Patrick died suddenly, leaving Pup with a family who won't talk about it and acquaintances who just keep saying, "sorry for your loss." When Pup excels at a photography assignment he thought he'd bomb, things start to come into focus. His dream girl shows her true colors. An unexpected friend exposes Pup to a whole new world, right under his nose. And the photograph that was supposed to show Pup a way out of his grief ultimately reveals someone else who is still stuck in their own. Someone with a secret regret Pup never could have imagined. [Printz Honor winner and Morris Award finalist; Reviewed in *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal* and *Publisher's Weekly*]

