



Death and Dying Picture Books

These books are suitable for four to ten year olds. Books should always be reviewed before use by or with children and evaluated based upon individual needs (e.g. developmental level, circumstances, etc.) For help finding any of these books, please visit the Reference Desk on the first floor.

Boyden, Linda. **The Blue Roses.** (CBC E B6934b 2002)

A Native American girl gardens with her grandfather, who helps to raise her, and learns about life and loss when he dies, and then speaks to her from a dream where he is surrounded by blue roses.

Brisson, Pat. **I Remember Miss Perry.** (CBC E B7766i 2006)

When his teacher, Miss Perry, is killed in a car accident, Stevie and his elementary school classmates take turns sharing memories of her, especially her fondest wish for each day.

Bunting, Eve. **The Memory String.** (CBC e B8865m 2000)

While still grieving for her mother and unable to accept her stepmother, a girl clings to the memories represented by forty-three buttons on a string.

Bunting, Eve. **Rudi's Pond.** (CBC E B8865r 1999)

When a sick boy dies, his friends and classmates remember him by building a schoolyard pond in his memory.

Carrick, Carol. **The Accident.** (CBC E C2343a 1976)

After his dog is hit by a truck and killed, Christopher must deal with his own feelings of depression and guilt.

Clifton, Lucille. **Everett Anderson's Goodbye.** (CBC E C6135e 1983)

Everett Anderson has a difficult time coming to terms with his grief after his father dies.

Cohen, Miriam. **Jim's Dog Muffins.** (CBC E C6606j 2000)

When Jim's dog is killed, the other first graders experience with him his natural reactions to death.

Coutant, Helen. **First Snow.** (CBC E C8372f)

With the help of her grandmother and the first snow she has ever seen, a little Vietnamese girl begins to understand how death can be accepted as a natural part of life.

De Paola, Tomie. **Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs.** (CBC E D4408n)

Four-year-old Tommy enjoys his relationship with both his grandmother and great-grandmother, but eventually learns to face their inevitable death.

Demas, Corinne. **Saying Goodbye to Lulu.** (CBC E D3925s 2004)

When her dog Lulu dies, a girl grieves but then continues with her life.

DiSalvo-Ryan, DyAnne. **A Dog Like Jack.** (CBC E D6308d 1999)

After a long life of chasing squirrels, licking ice cream cones, and loving his adoptive family, an old dog comes to the end of his days.

Durant, Alan. **Always and Forever.** (CBC E D9327a 2003)

A family of forest animals learns to cope with the death of a loved one.

Fassler, Joan. **My Grandpa Died Today.** (CBC E F2644m)

A little boy tries to understand and accept the death of his grandfather.



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- Fritts, Mary Bahr. **If Nathan Were Here.** (CBC E B1448i 2000)
A young boy grieves the loss of his best friend and thinks about how things would be if he were still alive.
- Gould, Deborah. **Grandpa's Slide Show.** (CBC E G7316g 1987)
Whenever they visit Grandpa, Sam and Douglas always watch a slide show. After Grandpa dies, they watch the show to remember him.
- Harris, Robie H. **Goodbye Mousie.** (CBCE H2433g 2001)
A boy grieves for his dead pet Mousie, helps to bury him, and begins to come to terms with his loss.
- Hesse, Karen. **Poppy's Chair.** (CBC E H463p 1993)
On her first summer visit to her grandmother since her grandfather's death, Leah is saddened by his absence, but Gramm helps her learn how to remember Poppy with joy.
- Heymans, Annemie. **The Princess in the Kitchen Garden.** (CBC E H5163p 1993)
As their father becomes more absorbed in his work, Matthew and his sister Hannah come to terms with their mother's death in very unusual ways.
- Hickman, Martha Whitmore. **Last Week My Brother Anthony Died.** (CBC E H52841 1984)
A small girl named Julie describes her feelings following the death of her four-week-old baby brother.
- Hill, Frances. **The Bug Cemetery.** (CBC E H5518b 2002)
Neighborhood children imaginatively stage funerals for dead bugs, but they experience real sadness following the death of a pet.
- Keller, Holly. **Goodbye, Max.** (CBC E K2826g 1987)
Ben blames his parents for the death of his dog, Max, and does not want the new puppy they brought home.
- Luenn, Nancy. **A Gift For Abuelita: Celebrating the Day of the Dead.** (CBC E L9677m 1998)
After her beloved grandmother dies, Rosita hopes to be reunited with Abuelita as she prepares a gift to give her when her family celebrates the Day of the Dead.
- Madenski, Melissa. **Some of the Pieces.** (CBC E M2627s 1991)
A year after the death of the father, two children and their mother try to come to terms with their loss.
- Newman, Leslea. **The Best Cat in the World.** (CBC E N4657b 2004)
A young boy deals with the loss of his beloved cat Charlie, eventually accepting the arrival of another, very different cat.
- Parker, Marjorie Blain. **Jasper's Day.** (CBC E P2272j 2002)
Today Riley's family is celebrating Jasper's Day. Everything they do will be in honor 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; 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.
- Quinlan, Patricia. **Tiger Flowers.** (CBC E Qu445t 1994)
When his uncle, Michael, dies of AIDS, Joel's dreams and thoughts of Michael keep his memory alive.
- Roth, Susan L. **Another Christmas.** (CBC E R7428a 1992)
The year after Grandpa's death, Ben's family spends Christmas in Puerto Rico, where Grandma makes sure the holiday still has some familiar elements while being a little different.



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- Rylant, Cynthia. **Cat Heaven.** (CBC E R9832c 1997)
God created Cat Heaven, with fields of sweet grass where cats can play, kitty-toys for them to enjoy, and angels to rub their noses and ears.
- Rylant, Cynthia. **Dog Heaven.** (CBC E R9832d 1995)
God created Dog Heaven, a place where dogs can eat ice cream biscuits, sleep on fluffy clouds, and run through unending fields.
- Shriver, Maria. **What's Heaven?** (CBC E Sh867w 1999)
After her great-grandmother's death, a young girl learns about heaven by asking her mother all kinds of questions.
- Stevens, Margaret. **When Grandpa Died.** (CBC E St477w)
A little girl tries to come to terms with the death of her grandfather.
- Thompson, Colin. **Looking for Atlantis.** (CBC E T3723l 1993)
After his grandfather's death, a young boy learns to see the wonders of the world through the old man's eyes.
- Varley, Susan. **Badger's Parting Gifts.** (CBC E V4298b 1984)
Badger's friends are sad when he dies, but they treasure the legacies he left them.
- Viorst, Judith. **The Tenth Good Thing About Barney.** (CBC E V8147t)
Barney, the family cat, dies and a young boy is very sad. His mother suggests he think of ten good things about his pet to recite at the backyard funeral. His father helps him find the tenth thing which helps the boy accept the death of his cat.
- Wild, Margaret. **The Very Best of Friends.** (CBC E W6438v 1990)
Since Jessie has never cared for her farmer husband's cat William, her difficult adjustment period after her husband's death makes William doubt if he is still welcome on the farm.
- Zemach, Margot. **Jake and Honeybunch Go To Heaven.** (CBC E Z402j)
The exuberance of a man and his mule newly arrived in heaven causes so much furor that God gives them one last chance before He throws them out.
- Zolotow, Charlotte. **The Old Dog.** (CBC E Z755ol 1995)
When a young boy finds his old dog dead one morning, he spends the rest of the day thinking about all the good times they had together.