



Books for Families Preparing for Loss

Alexander, Alesia. ***A Mural For Mamita. (Un Mural Para Mamita)***. Centering Corporation, 2001. Ages 4-8. A story about a young girl whose Mamita gets cancer and later dies. The girl remembers all the special things about her grandmother and gets everyone together to create a fantastic mural. English and Spanish.

Boulden, Jim. ***Saying Goodbye***. Boulden Publishing, 1992. Ages 6-12 This book offers a gentle, non-threatening presentation of death with a healing discussion of emotional issues.

Coleman, Paul. ***Where the Balloons go***. Centering Corporation, 1996. Ages 5-10. This exquisite story shares love, dreams, death and grief as Grandma gets ill and later dies.

Fairview Health Services. ***A Teen's Guide to Coping When a Loved One Is Sick and Preparing to Die***. Minnesota: Fairview Press, 2003. This booklet offers answers to common questions teens have when a person is dying, along with specific techniques to help teens cope with grief. The back of the booklet contains a glossary of hospice and other related terms that could be confusing to your teen.

Heegaard, Marge. ***When Someone Has a Very Serious Illness***. Minneapolis, MN: Woodland Press, 1991. Ages 6-12. A workbook to help children deal with their feelings about very serious illness.

Hucek, Margene. ***Lilacs for Grandma***. 2002. While hiding in the lilac bush underneath her grandmother's window, a young girl overhears the grown-ups in her family talking about her grandmother being ill. After her grandmother dies, the young girl gathers some lilacs and brings them to her grandmothers funeral.

Marshall, Bridget. ***Animal Crackers: A Tender Book About Death and Funerals and Love***. 1997. A tender book about death, funerals and love. This book explores aging, memory loss and a special kind of love when a young child's Nanny must go to a nursing home and later dies.

Merrifield, Margaret. ***Morning Light***. Stoddart, 1995. Ages 4-8. Story of a family whose mother has AIDS. Her two children, Max and Maggie, try & deal with their feelings as their mother becomes increasingly ill and dies.

Miles, Miska. ***Annie and the Old One***. MA: Little Brown and Co., 1971. (Grandparent Loss) Ages 4-8. When Annie's Navajo grandmother says that when Annie's mother's rug is completely woven that the grandmother will die, Annie tries to hold back time by unweaving the rug in secret.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Tracker***, Bradbury Press, 1984. As John closes in on the doe he's been tracking for two days, he comes to believe she has the mysterious power to cheat death & save the life of his beloved grandfather who is dying of cancer.

Wrenn, Elizabeth. ***The Christmas Cactus***. Centering Corporation, 2001. Megan doesn't want to hear that her Nana is dying. She picks up one of Nana's plants and tries to bring it back to health. The Christmas season just isn't the same - all of the colors of the season seem to be gone. But after Nana dies, Megan gets a very special present.

Funerals, Memorial Services, Burial, and Cremation

Grollman, Earl and Johnson, Joy. ***A Child's Book About Burial and Cremation***. Centering Corporation. This book talks about how the body is cared for after death and why it is important to say goodbye.

Grollman, Earl and Johnson, Joy. ***A Child's Book About Funerals and Cemeteries***. Centering Corporation. Discusses grief, feelings, and the funeral, what the child is likely to experience, what they will see and what people may do are all discussed in ways that will include the child in this important family event.

Johnson, Joy and Marv (Papa). ***Tell Me, Papa***. Omaha: Centering Corporation, 2001. Tells children about what happens when you die; explains the funeral and cremation, and answers questions honestly. Useful tool for parents and caregivers searching for the right words to say.

Marshall, Bridget. ***Animal Crackers: A Tender Book About Death and Funerals and Love***. 1997. A tender book about death, funerals and love. This book explores aging, memory loss and a special kind of love when a young child's Nanny must go to a nursing home and later dies.

O'Connor, Joey. ***Heaven's Not a Crying Place...Teaching your Child about Funerals, Death and Life Beyond***. Fleming H. Revell Co., 1997. Gives parents and other caring adults confidence to talk openly and honestly to children about life and death, funerals and grieving. Includes sections for teens, answering questions about heaven, finding meaning, and the funeral process.

Roberts, Janice and Johnson, Joy, ed. ***Thank You for Coming to Say Goodbye...Involving Children in Funeral Services***. Centering Corporation, 1994. Involving children in funeral services. Recommended for reading before a death happens, this book will help parents consider how children may be involved in funeral or memorial services before the busy, stressful, and emotional time of planning one comes about.

Techner, David & Judith Hirt-Manheimer. ***A Candle for Grandpa: A Guide to the Jewish Funeral for Children***. Ages 5-8. A young boy describes the events surrounding the death of his grandfather including his and his family's feelings of grief and the Jewish funeral service that they participate in.

Wise Brown, Margaret. ***The Dead Bird***. NY: Dell Publishing, 1965. Ages 4-8. Finding a dead bird, a group of children give it a fitting burial & come again to the woods to sing to the dead bird and place fresh flowers on its grave.