

Death | Dying | Grief | Loss

A Book List by Megan Daley



The lists contained in this PDF have been curated by Megan Daley of Children's Books Daily, on the topic of grief and loss. They span the age range from books suitable for an early childhood audience to an adult audience – many are suitable for all ages. These books may help to facilitate conversations and deepen understandings around death, dying and bereavement.

Picture Books

Far from being books for the very young, good quality contemporary picture books are sophisticated visual narratives that are often aimed at much older readers and even adults. The saying 'a picture paints a thousand words' communicates how powerfully art can change the ways in which we see the world and picture books are an accessible work of art for so many. Picture books invite discussion and are perfect for unpacking complex subject matter.

Balla, T. (2015). [*Shine: A story about saying goodbye*](#). Allen & Unwin. (e-book format)

Bell, J., & Wood, B. (2012). [*The wattle tree*](#). Hachette.

Callander, R. (2014). [*Super power baby project*](#). Evie's Book Club Ltd.

Carnavas, P. (2017). [*The important things*](#). New Frontier Publishing.

Colquoun, G. (2022). [*The story of the sand man*](#).

Crew, G., & Rogers, G. (1992). [*Lucy's bay*](#). University of Queensland Press.

Dieckmann, S. (2019). [*Waiting for Wolf*](#). Hodder Children's Books.

Donaldson, J., & Cobb, R. (2013). [*The paper dolls*](#). Macmillan Children's Books.

Empson, J. O. (2012). [*Rabbityness*](#). Child's Play.

Erlbruch, W., & Chidgey, C. (2017). [*Duck, death and the tulip*](#). Gecko Press.

Fox, M., & Blackwood, F. (2019). [*The Tiny Star*](#). Puffin Books.

Gordon, G. (2020). [*Finding francois*](#). Penguin Australia Pty Ltd.

Higginbotham, A. (2020). [*Death is stupid*](#). Dottir Press.

Huxley, D., Huxley, O., & Huxley, T. (2018). [*My brother*](#). Working Title Press.

Innes, S., & Agócs Írisz. (2019). [*Life is like the wind*](#). Hardie Grant Children's Publishing.



Jeffers, O. (2010). *[The heart and the bottle](#)*. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Jewels-Parsons, M., & Hanham, E. (2019). *[The present box](#)*. Michelle Jewels-Parsons.

Karst, P., & Stevenson, G. (2001). *[The invisible string](#)*. DeVorss Publications.

King, P., & Howell, P. (2015). *[You, me & rainbow](#)*. Jane Curry Publishing.

Larsen, E. H., Schneider, M., & Hedger, R. (2016). *[Life and I: A story about death](#)*. Little Gestalten.

Levis, C., & Santoso, C. (2016). *[Ida, always](#)*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Little, M. (2018). *[Yesterday you were here](#)*. Wakefield Press.

Lucas, A., & Sif, B. (2019). *[My big, dumb, invisible dragon](#)*. Sounds True.

Lunde, S. E., & Torseter, Ø. (2014). *[My father's arms are a boat](#)*. Enchanted Lion.

Maier, I. (2012). *[Ben's flying flowers](#)*. Magination Press.

McGeachin, J. (2019). *[Fly](#)*. Puffin Books.

Mellonie, B., & Ingpen, R. (2005). *[Beginnings and endings with lifetimes in between](#)*. Penguin Australia Pty Ltd.

Noble, R., & Abbott, Z. (2018). *[Finn's feather](#)*. Enchanted Lion Books.

Parker, D., & Macdonald, B. (2020). *[Paperboy](#)*. Dirt Lane Press.

Parr, T. (2016). *[The goodbye book](#)*. Hachette Book Group.

Puttock, S., & Bartlett, A. (2001). *[A story for Hippo: A book about loss](#)*. Scholastic Press.

Ringtved, G. (2016). *[Cry heart, but never break](#)*. Enchanted Lion Books.

Rislov, C., & Balsaitis, R. (2013). *[Love is forever](#)*. Casey Rislov Books.

Rosen, M., & Blake, Q. (2015). *[Michael Rosen's sad book](#)*. Walker Books Australia.

Schneider, A., Dusíková Maja, & James, J. A. (1998). *[Goodbye, vivi!](#)* North-South Books.

Shelberg, R. S., & Edmonds, A. (2018). *[Visiting you](#)*. Exisle Publishing Pty Ltd.

Speechley, M. (2019). *[The gift](#)*. Puffin Books.

Teckentrup, B. (2014). *[The memory tree](#)*. Hachette Children's Books.

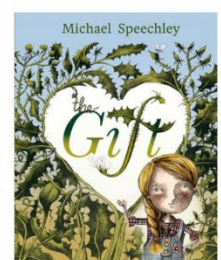
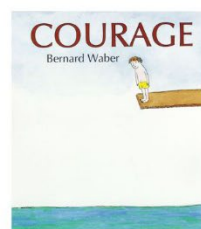
Waber, B. (2002). *[Courage](#)*. Houghton Mifflin.

Wild, M., & Spudvilas, A. (1999). *Jenny Angel*. Viking Kestrel picture books.

Wild, M., & Vivas, J. (1990). *The very best of friends*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Wild, M., & Brooks, R. (2017). *Old pig*. Allen & Unwin.

Willems, M., & Muth, J. J. (2010). *City dog, country frog*. Hyperion Books for Children.



Middle Grade and Young Adult Books

(ages 10 – 18, please check suitability for each reader)

It is important young people see their lives reflected in the books they read as it helps them to feel less alone in the world. The books in this list of chapter books for young people are ones that will enable connection and provide opportunities to reflect on their grief journey or to develop empathy and understanding for the grief journey of a peer. Books also give young adults a space to escape to when the actual world is just too ‘noisy’. Books are the quietest of companions...there when you need their comfort but silent when you need space and solitude. Some of these books are for a mature audience, please consider the maturity level of the intended reader and the themes depicted in each book.



Bateson, C. (2002). *Painted love letters*. University of Queensland Press.

Carnavas, P. (2017). *The Elephant*. University of Queensland Press.

Chamblain, J., & Neyret Aurélie. (2021). *Cici's journal: Lost and found*. First Second.

Craven, M. (1980). *I heard the owl call my name*. Dell Pub.

Epstein, B. J. (2020). *The bird within me*. Book Island Ltd.

Fox, H. (2019). *How it feels to float*. Pan Macmillan Australia.

Green, J. (2012). *The fault in our stars*. Penguin Books.

Harry, P. (2019). *The little wave*. University of Queensland Press.

Hawke, R. (2012). *The messenger bird*. University of Queensland Press.

Herrick, S. (2014). *The simple gift*. University of Queensland Press.

Laguna, I. (2021). *Bailey Finch takes a stand*. The Text Publishing Company.

Lai, R. (2020). *Pie in the sky*. Walker Books Australia Pty Ltd.

Macdonald, H. (2015). *H is for Hawk*. Random House UK.

Marwood, L. (2018). *Leave taking*. University of Queensland Press.

McKinlay, M. (2019). *Catch a falling star*. Walker Books Australia Pty Ltd.

Millard, G., & Magerl, C. (2003). *The naming of Tishkin Silk*. HarperCollins Publishers.

Moloney, J. (1995). *Swashbuckler*. University of Queensland Press.

Ness, P. (2015). *A monster calls*. Walker Books.

Paterson, K. (2015). *Bridge to Terabithia*. Puffin.

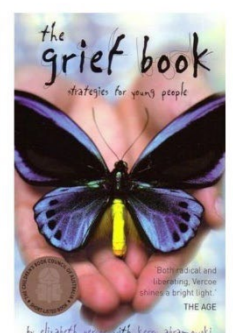
Vercoe, E., & Abramowski, K. (2004). *The grief book*. Black Dog.

Whiting, S. (2018). *Missing*. Walker Books Australia.

Winton, T. (2008). *Blueback*. Penguin Australia Pty Ltd.

Zorn, C. (2014). *The protected*. University of Queensland Press.

Zorn, C. (2017). *One would think the deep*. University of Queensland Press.



Adult



Baird, J. (2020). [*Phosphorescence: On awe, wonder and things that sustain you when the World Goes Dark.*](#) HarperCollins Publishers.

Barnes, J. (2009). [*Nothing to be frightened of.*](#) Random House UK.

Callander, R. (2014). [*Super Power Baby Project.*](#) Evie's Book Club Ltd.

Crowe, L., & Reardon, P. (2014). [*The little book of loss & grief: You can read while you cry.*](#) Publish Central.

Daley, M. (2019). [*Raising readers: How to nurture a child's love of books.*](#) University of Queensland Press.

Devine, M. (2018). [*It's Ok that you're Not Ok: Meeting grief and loss in a culture that doesn't understand.*](#) Sounds True.

Didion, J. (2006). [*The year of magical thinking.*](#) Harper Perennial.

Eldredge, J. (2007). [*Epic: The story god is telling.*](#) Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Gaarder, J., & Rokkan, E. (1999). [*Through a glass, Darkly.*](#) Orion.

Hayes, B. (2018). [*Insomniac City: New York, Oliver Sacks, and me.*](#) Bloomsbury.

Hooper, C. (2022). [*Bedtime Story.*](#) Scribner Australia.

Johnson, T. H. (2017). [*Jean Harley was here.*](#) University of Queensland Press.

Lamott, A. (2014). [*Small victories: Spotting improbable moments of Grace.*](#) Riverhead Books.

Lloyd, V. (2008). [*The Young Widow's book of home improvements: A true story of love and renovation.*](#) University of Queensland Press.

McKissock, Dianne. [*The Magic of Memories: Helping Children Live with Grief.*](#) 1st ed., National Centre for Childhood Grief, 2012.

Olsen, A. [*I Draw Childhood Cancer.*](#)

Porter, M. (2016). [*Grief is the thing with feathers.*](#) Faber & Faber.

Rinpoche, S. (2008). [*The tibetan book of living and dying.*](#) Ebury Publishing.

Sales, L. (2019). [*Any ordinary day.*](#) Penguin Australia Pty Ltd.

Sandberg, S. (2019). [*Option B.*](#) Random House UK.

Virtue, D., & Praag, J. V. (2013). [*How to heal a grieving heart.*](#) Hay House UK Ltd.

Books are linked to Booktopia for immediate purchase, or to author/publisher website where sales are not possible or the book is out of print at this time. Purchases made through these Booktopia links result in a small commission, a percentage of which supports literacy projects for foundations such as The Pyjama Foundation.



For more inspiration and tips on reading with your child from birth and beyond, please see Megan's book 'Raising Readers: how to nurture a child's love of reading' (UQP, 2019), her website www.childrenbookdaily.com and listen to her podcast, Your Kids Next Read.

