

## **Book and Resource Suggestions for Death and Loss for Young Children**

Recommended by Early Years Practitioners November 2022.

Collated by Gill Vaisey, Religion and Worldviews Adviser, [Books at Press](#).

**Winston's Wish** Website has a wealth of resources and advice suitable for schools

[Free PSHE lessons on loss and bereavement](#) | [School resources](#) | [Winston's Wish \(winstonswish.org\)](#)

### **Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to children**

**Paperback – Illustrated, 5 Oct. 1998**

by [Bryan Mellonie](#) (Author)

A pet . . . a friend . . . or a relative dies, and it must be explained to a child. This sensitive book is a useful tool in explaining to children that death is a part of life and that, eventually, all living things reach the end of their own special lifetimes

### **Badger's Parting Gifts: a picture book to help children deal with death**

**Paperback – 7 Mar. 1987**

by [Susan Varley](#) (Author)

Badger is so old that he knows he must soon die, so he does his best to prepare his friends. When he finally passes away, they are grief-stricken, but one by one they remember the special things he taught them during his life. By sharing their memories, they realise that although Badger is no longer with them physically, he lives on through his friends.

### **The Invisible String: 1 Paperback – Picture Book, 6 Dec. 2018**

by [Patrice Karst](#) (Author), [Joanne Lew-Vriethoff](#) (Illustrator)

Parents, educators, therapists, and social workers alike have declared *The Invisible String* the perfect tool for coping with all kinds of separation anxiety, loss, and grief. In this relatable and reassuring contemporary classic, a mother tells her two children that they're all connected by an invisible string.

### **The Memory Tree Paperback – Picture Book, 2 Oct. 2014**

by [Britta Teckentrup](#) (Author)

**A beautiful and heartfelt picture book to help children celebrate the memories left behind when a loved one dies.**

Fox has lived a long and happy life in the forest, but now he is tired. He lies down in his favourite clearing, and falls asleep for ever. Before long, Fox's friends begin to gather in the clearing. One by one, they tell stories of the special moments that they shared with Fox. And so, as they share their memories, a tree begins to grow, becoming bigger and stronger with each memory, sheltering and protecting all the animals in the forest, just as Fox did when he was alive.

**This gentle story about the loss of a loved one is perfect for sharing and will bring comfort to both children and parents.**

## **Why Do Things Die? (Lift the Flap First Questions & Answers): 1 Board book – 3 Sept. 2020**

by [Katie Daynes](#) (Author), [Christine Pym](#) (Illustrator)  
*4.7 out of 5 stars\_ 214 ratings*

[Part of: Very First Questions and Answers \(23 books\)](#)

A beautiful and gentle look at the circle of life, using Christine Pym's gorgeous animals characters to explore the emotions and facts around death, with questions such as Is it ok to talk about dying? What happens when someone dies? Can I shout and cry and hide away? and How can I stop feeling sad?

## **Grandma and Grandpa's Garden Paperback – 1 Jun. 2008**

by [Neil Griffiths](#) (Author), [Gabriella Buckingham](#) (Illustrator)

Grandma and Grandpa loved being together in their beautiful garden. They loved it too when their granddaughter Lucy visited and they taught her many skills. Sadly, these long, happy days were not to last, but memories of them would live on.

## **Always and Forever Paperback – Illustrated, 2 Sept. 2004**

by [Alan Durant](#) (Author), [Debi Giori](#) (Illustrator)

When Fox dies the rest of his 'family' are absolutely distraught. How will Mole, Otter and Hare go on without their beloved friend? But, months later, Squirrel reminds them all of how funny Fox used to be, and they realise that Fox is still there in their hearts and memories.

## **Rabbityness (Child's Play Library) Paperback – Picture Book, Feb. 2012**

by [Jo Empson](#) (Author, Illustrator)

Rabbit enjoys doing rabbit things, but he also loves un-rabbit things! When Rabbit suddenly disappears, no one knows where he has gone. His friends are desolate. But, as it turns out, Rabbit has left behind some very special gifts for them, to help them discover their own unrabbit talents! This is a stunning debut picture book by author/illustrator Jo Empson. Rabbityness celebrates individuality, encourages the creativity in everyone and positively introduces children to dealing with loss of any kind. Part of CLPE's 'Corebooks' Selection.

## **Grandad's Island: Benji Davies Paperback – 2 July 2015**

by [Benji Davies](#) (Author)

At the bottom of Syd's garden, through the gate and past the tree, is Grandad's house. Syd can let himself in any time he likes. But one day when Syd comes to call, Grandad isn't in any of the usual places. He's in the attic, where he ushers Syd through a door, and the two of them journey to a wild, beautiful island awash in color where Grandad decides he will remain. So Syd hugs Grandad one last time and sets sail for home. Visiting Grandad's house at the bottom of the garden again, he finds it just the same as it's always been — except that Grandad isn't there anymore. Sure to provide comfort to young children struggling to understand loss, Benji Davies's tale is a sensitive and beautiful reminder that our loved ones live on in our memories long after they're gone.