# Death and Dying

## Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library

### A Selective Bibliography

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEXILE SCORE</th>
<th>BIOGRAPHY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>870</td>
<td>Bode, Ann, and Rien Broere. <em>I Miss You, Grandad.</em> Mankato, MN: Amicus, 2011. Tom’s family helps him to understand his grandfather’s death, but he, himself, figures out how to get a message to his beloved Grandad.</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>Brisson, Pat. <em>I Remember Miss Perry.</em> New York: Dial, 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISBN</td>
<td>Author</td>
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<tr>
<td>360</td>
<td>Cohen, Miriam</td>
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<td>660</td>
<td>Demas, Corinne</td>
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<td>650</td>
<td>Durant, Alan</td>
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<td>530</td>
<td>Edwards, Michelle</td>
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<td>710</td>
<td>Fang, Suzhen</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>Jeffers, Oliver</td>
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When Jim returns to school after his dog, Muffins, is hit by a garbage truck and dies, the first-graders try to share his loss and ease his pain. But Jim refuses to talk or even let anyone come near him. He doesn’t participate in any school activities and mopes about, thinking of his beloved dog. Jim does not even choose a book when everyone sits down to read. The wise teacher points out that Jim may need more time to feel his grief. This book deals sensitively with the way children experience loss and allows readers to empathize with their experiences.

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

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

Pa Lia and her classmates share memories of Stinky Stern, the second-grade bully.

Xiao Le's grandmother lives in a faraway village. A visit with Grandma is always a special event, but this time she is frail. With encouragement from his mom, Xiao Le plays with and helps Grandma. When Grandma dies shortly thereafter, Xiao Le comforts his mom—reminding her that when it rains, Grandma is washing her clothes in the sky... and that although the Perfume Village in heaven cannot be reached by train, it can be accessed by the heart.

After safeguarding her heart in a bottle hung around her neck, a girl finds the bottle growing heavier and her interest...
in things around her becoming smaller.

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<td>When his beloved grandfather is killed in a storm while leading the swan flock south for the winter, Moonshadow is reassured by his father that the flock will go on with Grandfather always in their hearts.</td>
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<td>When Aunt Mattie dies, best friends Lottie and Herbie console each other and celebrate Aunt Mattie's life by scattering her ashes and preparing her favorite snack—peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (with bananas).</td>
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<td>When his mother dies, a little boy is angry at his loss but does everything he can to hold onto the memory of her scent, her voice, and the special things she did for him, even as he tries to help his father and grandmother cope.</td>
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<td>When they find a rabbit flattened in the road, a dog and a rat decide to give the deceased animal a proper sendoff.</td>
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<td>Children ask different adults and themselves about death and receive a wide variety of answers. Includes an afterword and suggestions for parents.</td>
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<td>Although devastated when his pet dog dies, a young boy goes trick-or-treating and receives a timely visit from an old friend during a scary encounter with graveyard skeletons.</td>
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Emily and Ben struggle to make sense of their changed world after the loss of their mother to cancer. The children embark on a journey of healing and acceptance as they come to realize they can keep their mother’s memory alive—that her love with stay with them always.


When Rachel’s beloved grandfather, Zayde, comes to spend his last days with her family, she worries what will happen when he died, especially after friends tell her the Christian and Muslim beliefs about the afterlife.


One day, when Harry comes home from school, his faithful companion Hopper isn’t there to greet him, in a touching story about the process of healing after losing a beloved pet.

**FICTION**


A boy tells about a story he wrote when dealing with his father’s death about a savage kid living in a ruined chapel in the woods—and the tale about the savage kid coming to life in the real world.


Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend’s death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder.


A delinquent sixteen-year-old girl is sent to live with her uncle for the summer, only to learn that he is a Grim Reaper
who wants to teach family the business.

In complete denial that she is pregnant, straight-A student and star athlete Devon Davenport leaves her baby in the trash to die, and after the baby is discovered, Devon is accused of attempted murder.

Bird, an artistic young African American boy, expresses himself through drawing as he struggles to understand his older brother’s drug addiction and death, while a family friend, Uncle Son, provides guidance and understanding.

Rachel, having chosen to be mute following the sudden death of a classmate, shares responsibility with the other sixth-graders who decide not to report that the substitute teacher failed to show up.

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life.

Sixteen-year-old Miles’ first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answer about life and death after a fatal car crash.

Two teenaged sisters, separated by death but still connected, work through their feelings of loss over the closeness they shared as children that was later destroyed by one’s mental illness, and finally make peace with each other.


After the death of his grandmother, ten-year-old Spoon observes the changes in his grandfather and tries to find the perfect artifact to preserve his memories of her.


Although she loves her father, their home in New York City, and third-grade teacher Miss Meadows, Annie misses her mother who died recently. Eight-year-old Annie lives in a sunny apartment in Manhattan with her father, Professor Rossi. Life would be pretty good if only Annie didn’t’ so achingly miss her mother. When Mrs. Rossi died suddenly, she left not only Annie but also a class full of students – who pour out their hearts in a scrapbook Annie will treasure forever. With tenderness and humor, Amy Hest reveals the struggles of a father and daughter as they try to forge a new life together.


Scotty compares herself to tofu: no flavor unless you add something. And it's true that Scotty's friends, Misha and Faclone, and her brother, Keone, make life delicious. But when a terrible accident occurs, Scotty feels responsible for the loss of someone she hardly knew, and the world goes wrong. She cannot tell what is a dream and what is real. Her friends are having a hard time getting through to her and her family is preoccupied with their own trauma. But the prospect of a boy, a dance, and the possibility that everything can fall back into place soon help Scotty realize that she is capable of adding her own flavor to life.


In 1965, Danny's grief over the death of his older brother
Beau is eased when a stray puppy adopts him, but he soon realizes that Beau is somehow in the dog, and sets out to make his brother's dream of seeing a rocket launch at Cape Kennedy come true.


A fearful second grader in Concord, Massachusetts, learns about death when his grandfather's best friend passes away and he offers to accompany his grandfather to the funeral.


Edward is one of a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other, and when he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes go to a perfect recipient.


When her boyfriend becomes the fourth student at her high school to die over the course of a year, and Darina starts seeing the dead teenagers, she discovers that they have come back to deal with unresolved problems, and she begins helping them so they can go to their final rest.


In parallel stories, Bone, an orphaned dog, finds and loses a series of homes, Molly, a family pet, helps Charlie through the grief and other after-effects of his brother's death, and lonely Henry pleads for a dog of his own.


Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.


With his family still grieving over his sister's death in a terrorist bombing seven years earlier, twelve-year-old Jamie is far more interested in his cat, Roger, his birthday Spiderman T-shirt, and keeping his new Muslim friend Sunya a secret from his father.


Fifteen-year-old Lizzie Cohen recalls what it was like growing up with her imaginative but disturbed older sister Tess, and how she is striving to reclaim her own life since Tess died.


As she navigates adolescence, ninth-grader Mia must deal with her mother's recent death and her father's illness while she searches for friendship and love in the world around her.


After the death of his older brother, Daniel Anderson became engrossed in recording details about dead people, how they died, and whether their deaths mattered but he is eventually drawn back into interaction with the living.


Portrait of two Muslim sisters, once closely bonded, but now on divergent paths as one embraces her religion and the other remains secular.
Fourteen-year-old Henry, sets out to hike, to honor his brother’s dying wish, Maine’s Mount Katahdin with his best friend and dog. But fate adds another companion--the Cambodian refugee accused of fatally injuring Franklin--and reveals troubles that predate the accident.

After coming out of alcohol rehabilitation, sixteen-year-old Amy sorts out conflicting emotions about her best friend, Julia’s, death in a car accident for which she feels responsible.

Thirteen-year-old Emmy, grieving over her mother who died of AIDS, resentful of having to live with her father and pregnant stepmother, and despairing about her future, finds hope at a summer camp for HIV-positive girls like herself. Includes facts about Elizabeth Glaser, one of the founders of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car crash, they end up in Everlost, or limbo for lost souls, where although Nick is satisfied, Allie will stop at nothing--even skinjacking--to break free.

Kate, eighteen, and Mary, sixteen, must make some adult decisions about the course their lives should take when their loving but old-fashioned father dies suddenly, leaving them with their mother, who has been in a persistent vegetative state since an accident four years earlier.

A photographic negative and two surprising new friends become the catalyst for healing as fifteen-year-old Rowan
struggles to keep her family and her life together after her brother's death.


When dead teenagers who have come back to life start showing up at her high school, Phoebe, a goth girl, becomes interested in the phenomenon, and when she starts dating a "living impaired" boy, they encounter prejudice, fear, and hatred.


While coping with her grandmother's sudden death and her mother's resulting depression and fascination with a spiritualist church, whose ministers claim to communicate with the dead, fifteen-year-old Liz finds herself falling for a new neighbor whose mother is dying of cancer.


After sixteen-year-old Tyler convinces his parents to donate the organs of his fourteen-year-old sister, who died during a gymnastics meet, he writes letters to the recipients, including Dani, who finally has a chance at normalcy after living fifteen years with a congenital heart defect.


After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live." Is it possible to grow up while getting younger? Welcome to Elsewhere. It is warm, with a breeze, and the beaches are marvelous. It's quiet and peaceful. Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver's license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she's dead, Liz is being forced to live a life she doesn't want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it
possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward?

NONFICTION


Presents the mystery of near-death experiences, including descriptions, theories, and famous examples.


Readers discover that the death of a friend or a loved one can sometimes lead to a new kind of growth. They learn how they can cope, what to expect, how to grieve, and how to re-enter the world with new insight.


When a pet dies, it can feel like you lost your best friend. What do you do? Whether you had a guinea pig, dog, cat, or fish, this story can help you through the tough times.


When someone you love dies, you might feel sad, lonely, and confused. What do you do? No matter who your loved one was, this story can help you through the tough times.


A collection of twenty-three essays that examines viewpoints on death and dying from around the world, discussing causes of death, end-of-life care, religion, and funeral practices.

Explores the cycle of life and death, and how the process is necessary in nature, while also commenting on how death effects people personally, and the skills they use to cope with such a trauma when it occurs.


The mother of Matthew Shepard shares her story about her son's death and the choice she made to become an international gay rights activist. Today, the name Matthew Shepard is synonymous with gay rights, but before his grisly murder in 1998, Matthew was simply her son. For the first time in book form, Judy Shepard speaks about her loss, sharing memories of Matthew, their life as a typical American family, and the pivotal event that changed everything. It not only captures the historical significance and civil rights issues, but it also chronicles one ordinary woman's struggle to cope with the unthinkable.


Describes the Black Death and its devastation on the European population in the fourteenth century, including what caused the plague, how it spread, and contemporary cures and treatments.


A young African American girl thinks of her mom as a superhero, a doctor, her North Star. She feels loved in her mother's arms and capable of conquering the world. But when her beloved role model unexpectedly dies, she cannot even cry; sadness is too overwhelming. As she struggles with grief, she must learn how to carry on while keeping the memory of her mother very much alive inside her heart. These poignant poems, together with folk-art images, powerfully capture the complicated feelings of someone who shows great hope, strength, and will to overcome.

A look at the deaths of several famous people throughout history and the circumstances surrounding those deaths.

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