

Death and Grief

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

Maybe Tomorrow? by Charlotte Agell, 2019.

Picture Book AGELL

Elba carries the black block of grief and sadness wherever she goes--until Norris comes along and helps her to let go of the block and enjoy life again. (PreK-3)

A Stone for Sascha by Aaron Becker, 2018.

Picture Book BECKER

A young girl reeling from her dog's death, finds solace while picking up stones on the beach during her family's vacation. (K-4)

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld , 2018.

Picture Book DOERRFELD

When Taylor's block castle is destroyed, all the animals think they know just what to do, but only the rabbit quietly listens to how Taylor is feeling. (Prek-2)

My Old Pal, Oscar by Amy Hest, 2016.

Picture Book HEST

A little boy finds a puppy on the beach but the boy does not want the puppy to follow him. He is missing his dog, Oscar, who died recently. When a storm comes, the little boy feels bad for the puppy and ends up taking him home to keep him safe. (PreK-1)

The Funeral by Matt James, 2018.

Picture Book JAMES

While attending her great-uncle Frank's funeral, Norma is confronted with rituals and ideas that have never occurred to her before. This sensitive and life-affirming story leads young readers to ask their own questions about life and death. (K-2)

Ida, Always by Caron Levis, 2016.

Picture Book Levis

Gus the polar bear grieves over the loss of his companion, Ida. This story is inspired by the real-life Gus and Ida of New York's Central Park Zoo. (PreK-3)

The Goodbye Book by Todd Parr, 2015.

Picture Book PARR

A fish is sad that his friend died. This is a very simple colorful book for young children to learn basic feelings about grief. (PreK-2)

Bear and Bird by James Skofield, 2014.

Picture Book SKOFIELD

Bear and Bird become friends when Bird is a young bird. Every year they spend time together but one spring, Bird comes back to find that Bear is nowhere to be found. When she realizes what happened, she remembers all of the great times they had together. (PreK-3)

City Dog, Country Frog by Mo Willems, 2010.

Picture Book WILLEMS

Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country he runs straight for Country Frog's rock to play games with him, but during the winter things change for them both. (PreK-2)

JUVENILE FICTION

- Things You Can't Say** by Jenn Bishop, 2020. Juvenile Fiction BISHOP
Nothing is going right this summer for Drew. And after losing his dad unexpectedly three years ago, Drew knows a lot about things not going right. (Grades 3-7)
- My Father's Words** by Patricia Maclachlan, 2018. Juvenile Fiction MACLACHLAN
Two children are left without their father after a terrible accident. Their father's words guide them through overwhelming grief and give them hope for the future. (Grades 3-7)
- Stars Beneath Our Feet** by David Barclay Moore, 2019. Juvenile Fiction MOORE
Unable to celebrate the holidays in the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city. (Grades 5-6)
- The Miraculous** by Jess Redman, 2019. Juvenile Fiction REDMAN
Formerly a miracologist, Wunder loses his sense of wonder when he loses someone important in his life. It's up to him and his friends to figure out the next step forward, not just for him, but for the entire town. (Grades 4-6)
- Clayton Byrd Goes Underground** by Rita Williams-Garcia, 2017. Juvenile Fiction WILLIAMS-GARCIA
Clayton is devastated when his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing music. His losses compel him to run away and join bluesmen on the road. (Grades 3-7)

NON-FICTION

- My Mixed Emotions** by Elinor Greenwood, 2018. J152.4 G816n
Feelings can be complicated and learning to express them is a skill that must be developed. This book coaches children through a variety of emotions and situations, including grief. (Grades 1-5)
- Death Is Stupid** by Anastasia Higginbotham, 2016. J155.937 H635d
This forthright exploration of grief and mourning recognizes the anger, confusion and fear that we feel about death. This book is an invaluable tool for discussing death, but also the possibilities for celebrating life and love. (Grades K-3)
- After Life: Ways we think about death** by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox, 2018. J155.937 W667a
A nonfiction book for middle-grade readers examines the history, beliefs and customs surrounding death in cultures around the world (Grades 4-7)