

Just the FAQs Please

Q. Some of my students have been through a lot in their short lives (destroyed homes, split families, frequent moves, dead or dying parent) and I'd like to have some books in my room that might comfort them or help them cope. Which books would you suggest?

– Brittany

Loss and Grief Reading List

Loss of Grandparents, Parents, or Other Adults

Ages 4–8

Granpa, John Burningham (preschool)
After the Funeral, Jane Loretta Winsch and Pamela T. Keating
An Angel in the Sky, Coryn Gizcki-Lipson and Carlie Gizcki
Do Not Be Sad—A Chronicle of Healing, Chris Jarrin
John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat, Jenny Wagner
My Grandma Died: A Child's Story about Grief and Loss, Lory Britain and Carol Deach
Sophie, Mem Fox
The Fall of Freddie the Leaf, Leo Buscaglia
The Goodbye Boat, Mary Joslin and Claire S. Little
The Light of Star, Phyllis Glowatsky and Karen J. Stringer
The Very Best of Friends, Margaret Wild
Where Is Grandpa? T. A. Barron
Why Did Grandpa Die? A Book About Death, Barbara Shook Hazen
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, Mem Fox

Ages 9–12

A Song for Cecilia Fantini, Cynthia Astor and Anthony Turpin
Coping with Death, Shasta Gaughen

"I Wish I Could Hold Your Hand:" A Child's Guide to Grief and Loss, Pat Palmer and Dianne O'Quinn Burke

Tear Soup, Pat Schweibert and Chuck Deklyen
What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies?

Trevor Romain and Elizabeth Verdick
When Someone Dies, Sharon Greenlee and Bill Drath

The Loss of Other Children (Friends, Siblings)

A Taste of Blackberries, Doris Buchanan Smith
Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson

Divorce

Ages 4–8

Dinosaurs Divorce, Laurene Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
I Don't Want to Talk about It, Jeanie Franz Ransom and Kathryn Kunz Finney
I Have Two Dads, Linnea Schulz and Susan Aitken
Mama and Daddy Bear's Divorce, Cornelia Spelman and Kathy Parkinson
The Little Flower Girl, Linda Trace Brandon

Ages 9–12

Dear Mr. Henshaw, Beverly Cleary
Divorce Happens to the Nicest Kids, Michael S. Prokop
Don't Fall Apart on Saturdays! The Children's Divorce—Survival Book, Adolph Moser and David Melton
Don't Make Me Smile, Barbara Park

Teens

How It Feels When a Parent Dies, Jill Krentenz
I Will Remember You: What to Do When Someone You Love Dies: A Guidebook through Grief for Teens, Laura Dower, Elena Lister
My Brother Stealing Second, Jim Naughton
Teenagers Face to Face with Bereavement,

Karen Gravelle and Charles Haskins
Telling Christina Goodbye, Lurlene McDaniel
Time to Let Go, Lurlene McDaniel

Change

Changes, Anthony Browne (preschool)
My Hiroshima, Junko Morimoto (ages 4–8)
The Burnt Stick, Anthony Hill (young adult)

Moving

Ages 4–8

Alexander, Who's Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Going to Move, Judith Viorst
Hey, New Kid! Betsy Duffey and Ellen Thompson
I'm Not Moving, Mama, Nancy White Carlstrom
Ira Says Goodbye, Bernard Waber
Lucy's New House, Barbara Taylor Cork
Matthew Jackson Meets the Wall, Patricia Reilly Giff
My Name Is Mar'a Isabel, Alma Flor Ada
The Berenstain Bears Moving Day, Jan and Stan Berenstain
What's the Recipe for Friends? Greg M. Williamson and Greg Abele

Loss of a Pet

Ages 4–8

Barn Kitty, June Kirkpatrick
For Every Dog an Angel, Christine Davis
The Tenth Good Thing about Barney, Judith Viorst
When Your Pet Dies, Diane Pomerance

Q. I am a new second-grade teacher who has a student with ADHD. His mother recently took him off medication because she doesn't want him to be medicated his whole life. He has no self-control. He doesn't listen, interrupts constantly, and when I ask him to do something, he acts silly. Even the specialist teachers have lost patience with him. What should I do?

–Stefanie

A. I have several suggestions for you:

1. If possible, have the mother come in to observe the child. Though she may deal with his behavior at home, she may not realize

how disruptive it is in a classroom. She also will see the range of acceptable behavior from other students compared to her son's behavior.

2. Create a study carousel. A large cardboard box from a stove, television, or refrigerator easily transforms into a private study haven. Not seeing other students should deter his attention-getting antics, especially when he is doing seatwork. If space is limited, angle the box so he can't see the other students.

3. Time his good behavior. Use a timer to set a specific amount of time for the student to practice self-control. Reward success and positive behavior with compliments or other incentives, and gradually increase the amount of time: "Austin, I am so proud that you were able to sit quietly doing your work for 10 minutes. Let's see if you can do that again." Have him chart his successes and progress and send it home daily or weekly, depending on which one seems the most helpful.

Get the mother involved in the plan. Have her help praise and reward positive behavior at home, as well as give consequences for poor behavior to reinforce your behavior plan. I would suggest giving nonmaterial rewards, such as extra play or TV time, or a special family activity. Try to get the family involved—it's not your burden alone. ■

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What questions about teaching can we answer?
 Contact the FAQ Editor, karena@kdp.org!