

## SUGGESTED READINGS ON TALKING ABOUT DEATH WITH CHILDREN

Buscaglia, Leo, PhD. ***The Fall of Freddie the Leaf***. SLACK Incorporated, 1982.

Appropriate for all ages—from toddlers to adults—and featuring beautiful nature photographs throughout, this poignant, thought-provoking story follows Freddie and his companions as their leaves change with the passing seasons and the coming of winter, finally falling to the ground with winter's snow. From New York Times bestselling author Leo Buscaglia, it has helped a generation of readers navigate death and dying, grief and bereavement, the passage of time, and loss of a loved one.

Doerrfeld, Cori. ***The Rabbit Listened***. (Ages 3-5)

With spare, poignant text and sweet illustrations, *The Rabbit Listened* is about how to comfort and heal the people in your life, by taking the time to carefully, lovingly, gently listen.

Erlbruch, Wolf. ***Duck, Death and the Tulip***. Gecko Press, 2008. (Ages: 10 and up)

In a strangely heart-warming story, a duck strikes up an unlikely friendship with Death. *Death, Duck and the Tulip* will intrigue, haunt and enchant readers of all ages. Simple, warm, and witty, this book deals with a difficult subject in a way that is elegant, straightforward, and life-affirming. "The gold standard of picture books about death."—*The New York Times Book Review*

Karst, Patrice (Author), Lew-Vriethoff, Joanne (Illustrator). ***The Invisible String***. Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018. (ages 4-8)

Offers a very simple approach to overcoming loneliness, separation, or loss with an imaginative twist that children easily understand and embrace, and delivers a particularly compelling message in today's uncertain times. "[Promotes] a vision of global unity and empathy."—*Kirkus*.

Rowland, Joanna. ***The Memory Box: A Book About Grief***. Sparkhouse Family, 2017. (Ages 4-8)

From the perspective of a young child, Rowland describes what it is like to remember and grieve a loved one who has died. The child in the story creates a memory box to keep mementos and written memories of the loved one, to help in the grieving process. A 2017 *Moonbeam Children's Book Awards* winner.

Varley, Susan. ***Badger's Parting Gifts***. Harper, 1984. (Ages 4-8)

"Badger's friends are overwhelmed with their loss when he dies. By sharing their memories of his gifts, they find the strength to face the future with hope." – *School Library Journal*. "Warm and sensitive illustrations reflect the hopeful mood of this tale about woodland animals learning to accept their friend Badger's death." - *Publishers Weekly*.