BOOKS ABOUT FRIEND LOSS

Children

General Books About Grief

- *Aarvy Aardvark Finds Hope* by Donna O'Toole -- Aarvy has lost his family and is filled with despair and hopelessness until a true friend helps him learn about the strengths within himself.
- *When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death* by Laurie Krasny Brown -- Straightforward and compassionate, When Dinosaurs Die explains death, dying, and coping with grief and loss in simple and accessible language for young kids and families.
- *I Know I Made It Happen* by Lynn Blackburn -- Gives kids support and understanding during crises. Excellent for younger children who often believe they somehow caused bad things to happen.
- *Grief is a Mess* by Jackie Schuld -- Grief is a Mess is an illustrated book for grieving children and adults who need a healthy dose of understanding, comfort, and laughter.
- *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst – Specifically written to address children's fears of being apart from the ones they love, The Invisible String offers a very simple approach to overcoming loneliness, separation, or loss with an imaginative twist that children easily understand and embrace.

Books for Friend Loss

- *Blow Me a Kiss, Miss Lilly* by Nancy White Carlstrom -- Sara's best friend, Miss Lilly, is very old, but it doesn't seem to bother her one bit. One morning Miss Lilly gets sick and goes to the hospital. Sara misses her and makes a special card with her crayons.
- *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson -- A novel about two friends who share a secret play world, and the effect of the sudden death of one of them.
- *The Berenstain Bears Lose a Friend* by Stan & Mike Berenstain -- Sister Bear loves taking care of her pet goldfish, Goldie. Sister feeds Goldie every morning and evening, cleans out her tank, and even gets her a beautiful fishbowl castle! But when Papa and Mama find Goldie floating belly-up in her tank, they worry about how Sister will feel. How will the Bear family



cope with the loss of Goldie, the best goldfish in the world?

- *Ida, Always* by Caron Levis -- A beautiful, honest portrait of loss and deep friendship told through the story of two iconic polar bears.
- *Timothy Duck* by Lynn B. Blackburn -- Timothy Duck talks about all the feelings he has after his favorite boy gets ill and dies.
- *The Class in Room 44: When a Classmate Dies* by Lynn B. Blackburn -- Explores the many different feelings classmates will have while giving ideas to help remember the student.
- *A Taste of Blackberries* by Doris Buchanan Smith -- When something terrible happens to Jamie, his best friend has to face the tragedy alone. Without Jamie, there are so many impossible questions to answer -- how can your best friend be gone forever? How can some things, like playing games in the sun or the taste of the blackberries that Jamie loved, go on without him?
- *Goodbye Rune* by Marit Kaldhol -- When her best friend accidentally drowns, a little girl, with the help of her parents, tries to come to terms with his death and her feelings of loss and sadness.
- *I Had a Friend Named Peter: Talking to Children About the Death of a Friend* by Janice Cohn -- When Betsy learns about the death of a friend, her parents and kindergarten teacher answer questions about dying, funerals, and the burial process.
- *My Yellow Balloon* by Tiffany Papageorge -- Tiffany Papageorge has crafted a poignant tale of love, loss, and letting go that will serve as a comforting guide to children who are navigating the complicated emotions of grief.

