



IN LOVING ARMS

Pet Loss Books for Children

Cat Heaven/Dog Heaven, Cynthia Rylant (4-7)

Goodbye, Mousie, Robie Harris (3-5)

A boy grieves for his dead pet, helps to bury him, and begins to come to terms with his loss.

Jasper's Day, Marjorie Parker (5-15)

Jasper is close to death from cancer. The family takes him around to his favorite places, then to the veterinarian. The story acknowledges and validates Riley's feelings about the loss of his pet.

Jim's Dogs Muffins, Miriam Cohen (4-7)

Jim's dog has died and he becomes angry that no one seems to understand. At the end of the school day, he and a classmate talk about Muffins, remembering her fondly. Through tears and smiles, Jim begins to deal with his feelings for the first time and the reader is left feeling he is going to be okay.

Murphy and Kate, Ellen Howard (3-12)

Kate and puppy Murphy grow up together, with Kate teaching him to walk on his back legs "one step at a time". Murphy dies when they are both 14. This is a caring, realistic story of how the grieving Kate will go on one step at a time" and finally find happiness in remembering him.

Remembering Pets - a Book for Children Who Have Lost a Special Friend,

Gina Dalpra-Berman (4+)

A story about remembering the joys shared with a special pet that gave unconditional love. It tells a child that it's ok to grieve for the loss of their companion, and to embrace the joys of a new pet.

Saying Goodbye to Lulu, Corinne Demas (4-8)

A story that conveys the range of emotions that a young girl feels over the loss of her pet.

The Tenth Good Thing About Barney, Judith Viorst (6-9)

This is a very loving story, sensitively handled about death and the on-going circle of life. It helps young children get a grasp on the finality of death and the importance of rituals and family support.

When a Pet Dies, Fred Rogers (3-7)

A story that helps children share feelings of the loss of a pet while offering reassurance that grieving is a natural, healing thing to do. A sensitive and sensible first book about death.

Zoe's Good-bye, Mary Schlangen

When a girl is faced with the reality that her beloved dog and lifetime companion, Zoe, is old and dying, she cannot bear to let her go. She remembers the vibrant, energetic, and happy dog that Zoe once was. During what would be their last night together, they meet a mysterious dog musher and his exuberant team of sled dogs. The musher offers to take them on a midnight ride. When the team takes a moment to experience the magic of the winter night, Zoe refuses to ride any further. Instead, she wants to run with the wind, as she did when she was young. Can Zoe's owner let her go, free from illness, free from pain, free to run? *Zoe's Good-bye* takes the reader to a place that few stories about pet loss do. It leaves the reader with a sense of peace in believing that such an afterlife exists. Perhaps, in their afterlife, our companions are whole again and free to enjoy the things they loved while alive.

The Fall of Freddy the Leaf, Leo Buscaglia

As Freddie experiences the changing seasons along with his companion leaves, he learns that death is part of life.

Saying Goodbye to Your Pet - Children Can Learn To Cope With Pet Loss, Marge Heegaard

An art therapy book for children coping with the loss of a pet. Simple text and blank spaces in which to add drawings teach children how to cope with the loss of a pet, including how to express their grief.

Up in Heaven, Emily Chichester Clark (3-8)

Daisy is Arthur's dog, and she's devoted to him. But she's very old, and lately she's finding it hard to keep up with Arthur. One night, after she goes to sleep as usual, she wakes up in heaven. Heaven is a wonderful place, and Daisy loves it there. But she knows Arthur is sad and misses her. So Daisy finds a way to let Arthur know she's happy—and that's the first step toward making him happy again, too.

Kalapana, Carolyn Everett Han (4 and up)

Recommended by a family whose young daughter has felt the loss of 6 pets passing:
“[Kalapana] offers a really beautiful view of death as transformation from a non-JudeoChristian perspective. It’s quite poignant and brings us comfort when we read it.”

The Tenth Good Thing About Barney, Monica Mansfield (5-6)

"A child's bond with a beloved animal is a powerful one. The loss of a pet due to illness or trauma can be a troubling time in a child's life. "When You Have to Say Goodbye: Loving and Letting Go of Your Pet" gently describes the why's surrounding end-of-life issues with animals and details valuable ways for children to move through this experience in a positive fashion. Written by veterinarian Dr. Monica Mansfield, the book's compassionate wording is brought to life by the poignant yet charming artwork of Lennie Peterson. The loving bonds between children, their animals, and family are illustrated throughout."