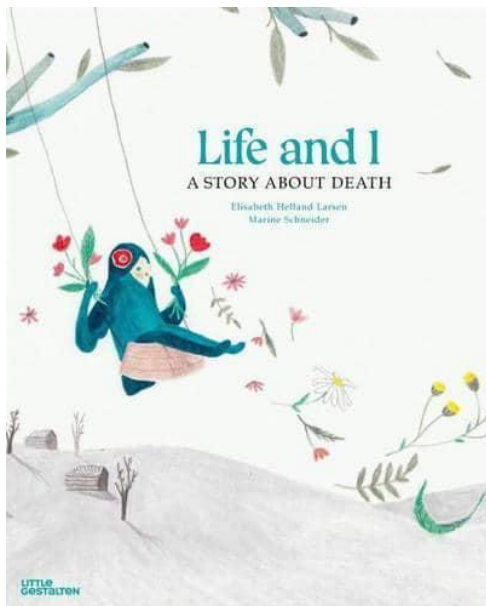


Arrivals + Departures

Books for children that explore death and departures,

During YARA + DAVINA's research phase for Arrivals + Departures they discovered many beautiful and powerful books that touched on themes of birth and death. Here is a collection of children's books that explore departures in terms of death but also more widely in terms of endings - such as moving away.

Life and I, by Elisabeth Helland Larsen, Marine Schneider (illustrator)

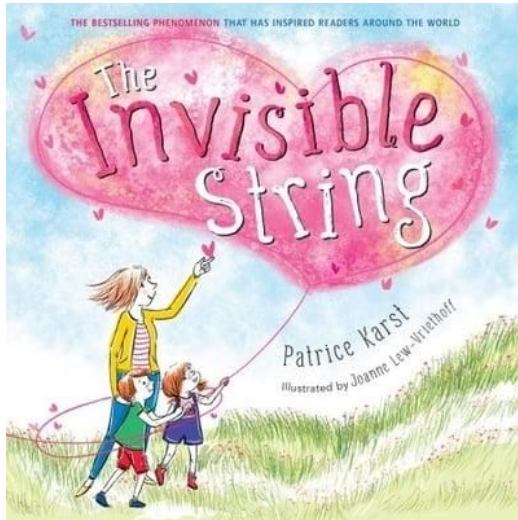


This sensitively-told story for readers of all ages illustrates the inseparability of life and death. Rosy-cheeked and wrapped in blue, with a flower in her hair, Death rides a pink bike. Death, a green-eyed little girl in this pastel world, visits small animals with soft fur and big animals with sharp teeth. She lingers with a kindly grandmother as they knit one last scarf together. She wanders through surroundings of gentle beauty and she tells us who she is.

For parents of children facing the loss of a family member, a friend, or a pet, this book finds words to express what is often so difficult to explain. It ends with such a feeling of uplift and acceptance that readers of any age will turn the last page with a smile and a tear.

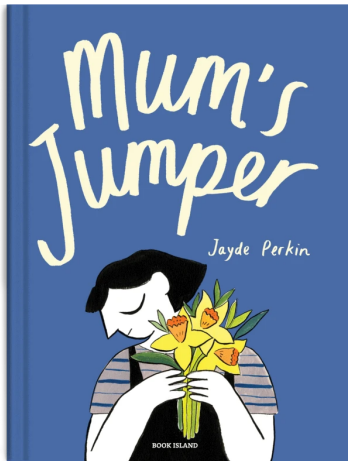
Author Elisabeth Helland Larsen and illustrator Marine Schneider weave a tapestry out of direct, poetic words and hand-drawn pictures to give voice to emotions that are moving, real, and most of all, honest.

The Invisible String by Patrice Karst and Joanne Lew-Vriethoff



With over 400,000 copies sold, this accessible, bestselling picture book phenomenon about the unbreakable connections between loved ones has healed a generation of readers--children and adults alike--and has been updated with new illustrations and an afterword from the author.

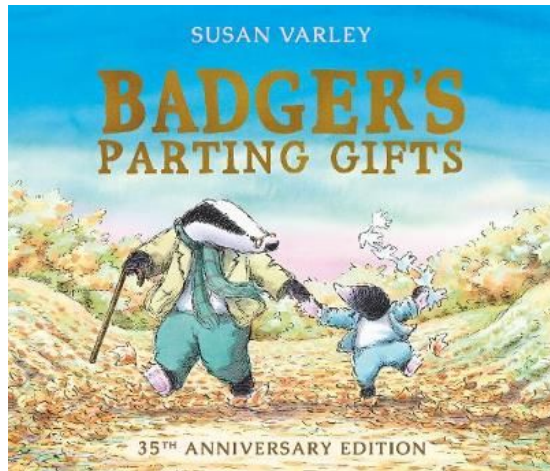
Mums Jumper by Jayde Perkin



If Mum has gone, how do you carry on? Missing her feels like a dark cloud that follows you around, or like swimming to a shore that never comes any nearer. But memories are like a jumper that you can cuddle and wear. And Mum's Jumper might be a way to keep her close.

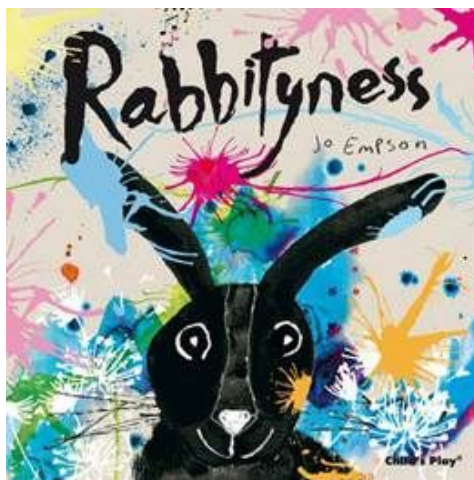
A simple, heartfelt and ultimately uplifting book for anyone coping with loss

Badgers Parting Gifts by Susan Varley



Badger is so old that he knows he must soon die, so he does his best to prepare his friends. When he finally passes away, they are grief-stricken, but one by one they remember the special things he taught them during his life. By sharing their memories, they realise that although Badger is no longer with them physically, he lives on through his friends.

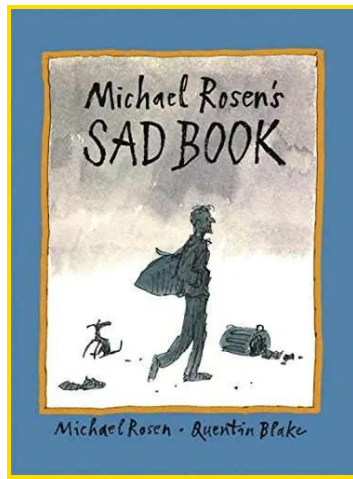
Rabbityness by Jo Empson



In *Rabbityness* she explores what we think of as typical of a rabbit, to which every child will relate, and illustrates this in simple black and green images. But Empson's Rabbit also likes unusual things like painting and making music, and the pages explode into colour and movement. When Rabbit vanishes his grieving friends discover that he has left them the materials to paint and make music themselves, and they can celebrate his memory.

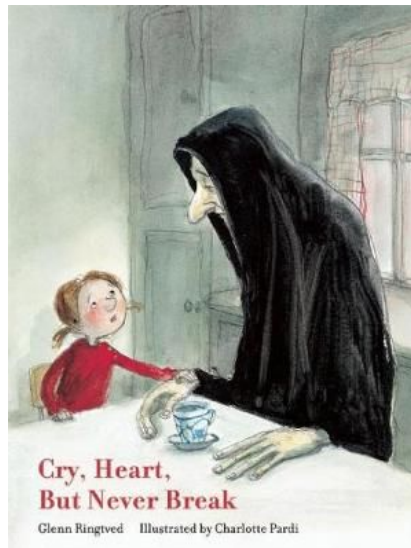
This beautifully illustrated, simple book will engage young readers, and address the sorrow of any bereavement they experience.

Michael Rosen's Sad Book



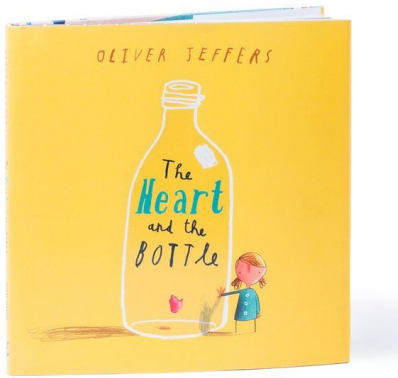
"Grief, when it comes, is nothing like we expect it to be," Joan Didion wrote after losing the love of her life. *"The people we most love do become a physical part of us,"* Meghan O'Rourke observed in her magnificent memoir of loss, *"ingrained in our synapses, in the pathways where memories are created."* Those wildly unexpected dimensions of grief and the synaptic traces of love are what celebrated British children's book writer and poet Michael Rosen confronted when his eighteen-year-old son Eddie died suddenly of meningitis. Never-ending though the process of mourning may be, Rosen set out to exorcise its hardest edges and subtlest shapes five years later in *Michael Rosen's Sad Book* (*public library*) — an immensely moving addition to the finest children's books about loss, illustrated by none other than the great Quentin Blake.

Cry Heart but Never Break by Glenn Ringtved and Charlotte Pardi (2016)



Aware their grandmother is gravely ill, four siblings make a pact to keep death from taking her away. But Death does arrive all the same, as it must. He comes gently, naturally. And he comes with enough time to share a story with the children that helps them to realize the value of loss to life and the importance of being able to say goodbye.

The Heart and the Bottle, Oliver Jeffers– 2 Sept. 2010

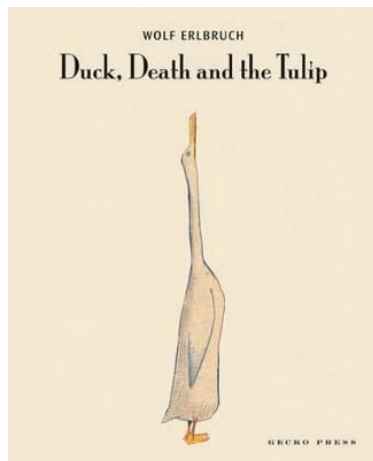


Once there was a girl whose life was filled with wonder at the world around her...

Then one day something happened that made the girl take her heart and put it in a safe place. However, after that it seemed that the world was emptier than before. But would she know how to get her heart back?

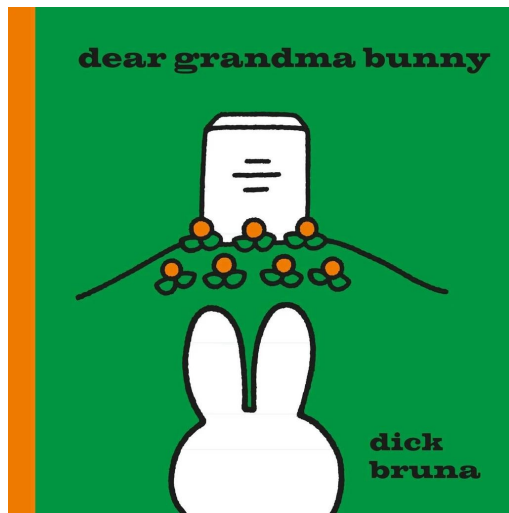
In this deeply moving story, Oliver Jeffers deals with the weighty themes of love and loss with an extraordinary lightness of touch and shows us, ultimately, that there is always hope.

Duck, Death and the Tulip. Wolf Erlbruch (2008) Gecko Press



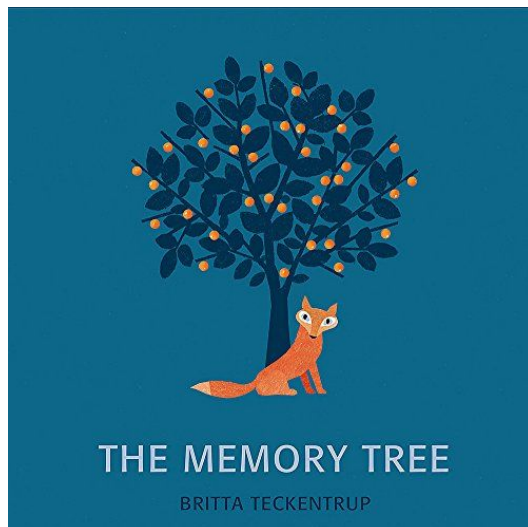
In a strangely heartwarming story, a duck strikes up an unlikely friendship with Death. "Who are you? Why are you creeping along behind me?" "Good. You've finally noticed me," said Death. "I am Death." Duck was startled. You couldn't blame her for that. Death, Duck and the Tulip is the much anticipated translation of Wolf Erlbruch's latest masterpiece. Death, Duck and the Tulip will intrigue, haunt and enchant teenagers and adults. Simple, unusual, warm and witty - a picture book version of The Book Thief. This book deals with a difficult subject in a way that is elegant, straightforward, and thought-provoking.

Dear Grandma Bunny, A Miffy Book



Miffy and her family are really sad. Grandma Bunny has died and it's time for them to say goodbye and thank Grandma Bunny for everything she did for them. Sensitively translated by award-winning poet Tony Mitton, this touching Miffy story celebrates the life and loss of loved ones.

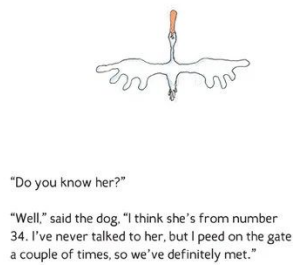
The memory Tree Britta Teckentrup



A beautiful and heartfelt picture book to help children celebrate the memories left behind when a loved one dies.

Fox has lived a long and happy life in the forest, but now he is tired. He lies down in his favourite clearing, and falls asleep for ever. Before long, Fox's friends begin to gather in the clearing. One by one, they tell stories of the special moments that they shared with Fox. And so, as they share their memories, a tree begins to grow, becoming bigger and stronger with each memory, sheltering and protecting all the animals in the forest, just as Fox did when he was alive. This gentle story about the loss of a loved one is perfect for sharing and will bring comfort to both children and parents.

Flat Rabbit by Bardur Oskarsson



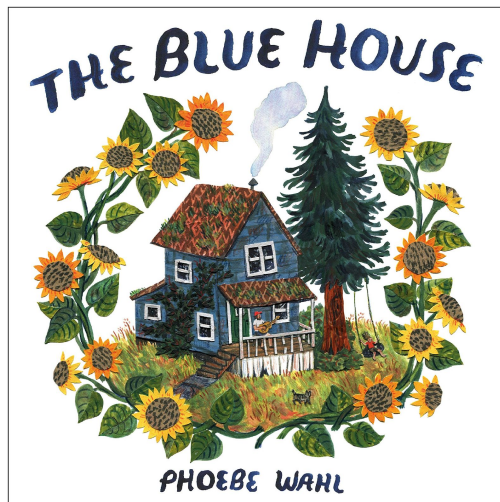
"Do you know her?"

"Well," said the dog, "I think she's from number 34. I've never talked to her, but I peed on the gate a couple of times, so we've definitely met."



When a dog and a rat find a flattened rabbit on the road, they try to figure out what happened and what to do next. After much thought, they come up with a plan and work all night to make it happen... Unlike *Goodbye Mog* by Judith Kerr, the story is about a stranger's death - a rabbit who is found by a mouse and dog. Not sure what to do, their imagination and compassion come together, and they give it a send off to remember - by attaching it to a kite and letting it fly above the clouds. *The Flat Rabbit* softly discusses life's only inevitability through heartwarming illustrations and a story that will leave adults as well as children contemplating.

Blue House Hardcover – Phoebe Wahl 11 Aug. 2020



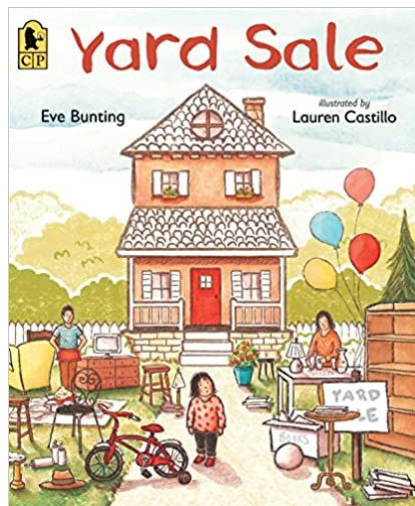
In the tradition of Virginia Lee Burton's *The Little House* comes a heartfelt story about a father and son learning to accept the new while honoring and celebrating the old. For as long as he can remember, Leo has lived in the blue house with his dad, but lately the neighborhood is changing. People are leaving, houses are being knocked down, and shiny new buildings are going up in their place. When Leo and his dad are forced to leave, they aren't happy about it. They howl and rage and dance out their feelings. When the time comes, they leave the blue house behind--there was never any choice, not really--but little by little, they find a way to keep its memory alive in their new home.

The Journey by Sanna Francesca



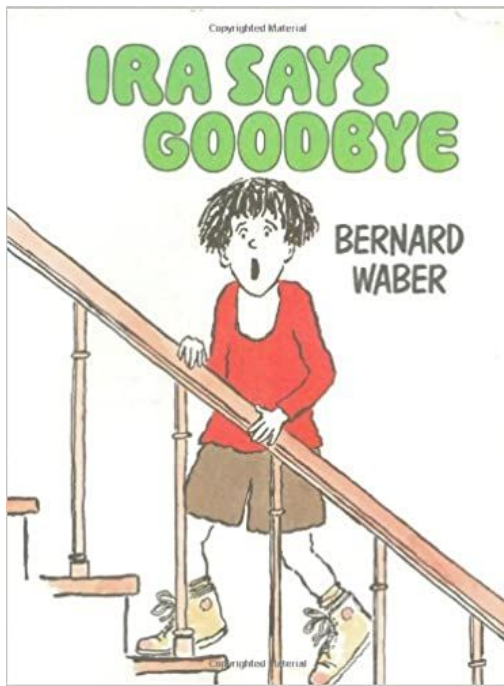
"... a wonderful teaching tool for those who are welcoming refugees into their community."--The New York Times With haunting echoes of the current refugee crisis this beautifully illustrated book explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. This book will stay with you long after the last page is turned. From the author: The Journey is actually a story about many journeys, and it began with the story of two girls I met in a refugee center in Italy. After meeting them I realized that behind their journey lay something very powerful. So I began collecting more stories of migration and interviewing many people from many different countries.. Almost every day on the news we hear the terms "migrants" and "refugees" but we rarely ever speak to or hear the personal journeys that they have had to take. This book is a collage of all those personal stories and the incredible strength of the people within them.

Yard Sale by Eva Bunting illustrated by Lauren Castillo



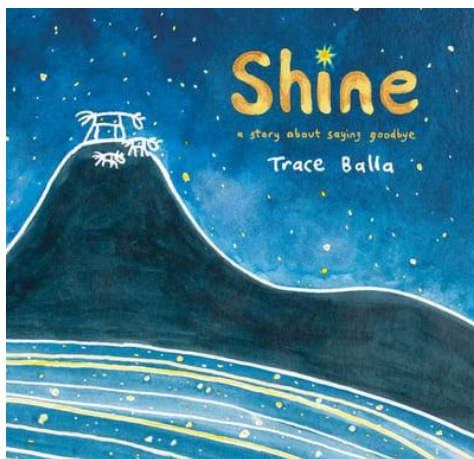
Callie's family has spread everything they own out on the front lawn to sell because they have to move to a smaller apartment. This sweet story sensitively deals with the pain of parting with your possessions and leaving a home and neighborhood you love, while also acknowledging that a home is family, not things.

Ira Says Goodbye by Bernard Waber



When Reggie, Ira's best friend, announces he is moving away, Ira is devastated. And he's even more heartbroken when Reggie seems not to care at all about leaving Ira behind. But when the big moving day arrives, it turns out that maybe Reggie is just as sad as Ira is about saying goodbye.

'Shine' by Trace Balla



A story for the very young about loss and the everlasting power of love, *Shine* is a story about saying goodbye. The author wrote it for young children who had lost their father, hoping it would help other families dealing with such a difficult time. A truly comforting story of great love that helps children to talk about the big questions of life