

## **READING LIST: MIDDLE CHILDREN (8-12 years)**

### **The Heart and the Bottle - *Oliver Jeffers (2010)***

With beautiful illustrations, how a little girl's life is changed by death. '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?' A moving book mostly in images & metaphor and without proscription, about love, loss and hope.

### **Two Weeks with the Queen - *Morris Gleitzman (1989)***

Fictional story about losing a brother, written with humour.

### **Amelia's Star - *E.Mann (2006)***

Magical story about a young person's options to transform following a death.

### **Michael Rosen's Sad Book - *Michael Rosen (2004)***

Brilliantly illustrated book about ongoing sad feelings following a death without sugar coating them. A good book to read together with an adult and share.

### **The Thing with Finn - *Tom Kelly (20017)***

Poignant fictional story about a boy losing his twin brother and finding a way through grief.

### **Oscar and the Lady in Pink - *E Schmitt (2005)***

Fable about a little boy facing his own death. Granny Rose befriends him and they pretend each day is a decade of his future. His letters about this life are funny, heartbreaking, uplifting.

### **Wenny has Wings - *J Carey (2005)***

Novel about a family which lose a child. Will escapes death and finds comfort in writing letters to his sister who did die, exploring grief, repercussions, survivor guilt and recovery.

### **James and the Giant Peach - *Roald Dahl (1967)***

James's story of how he faces the world following the death of his parents.

### **The Book Thief - *Markus Zusak (2008)***

This is a book about loss in Nazi Germany, 1939, gripping, insightful and educational. 'SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION - THIS NOVEL IS NARRATED BY DEATH'

### **Mr Toppit - *Charles Elton (2009)***

A darkly comic, enthralling story of the death of a father and the secrets this releases.

### **Mimi - *John Newman (2010)***

The ripple effects of a mother's death told in a matter of fact and gently humorous way from Mimi's perspective. It powerfully captures the importance of family, of supporting and understanding one another, and of sticking up for yourself when other people don't understand.

### **Milo and the Restart Button - *Alan Sillerberg (2011)***

The author writes from his own experience about 13 year old Milo who lost his Mum and in many ways has to 're-start without any of the good stuff you spent hours learning'.

## **READING LIST: MIDDLE CHILDREN (8-12 years) CONT.**

**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (and sequels) - J. K. Rowling (1997)**

The themes of loss and bereavement are addressed throughout in a compassionate way.

**A Series of Unfortunate Events - Lemony Snicket (1999)**

Fictional stories without happy endings; expressive and funny about things 'going wrong'.

**Vicky Angel - Jacqueline Wilson & illustrated by Nick Sharratt, (2000)**

About a young girl's struggle with her grief over losing her best friend, Vicky

**Millions – F. Boyce (2004)**

Charming story of two boys after their mum died, also a film.

**Charlotte's Web – E. B White (1963)**

Animal fiction which brings in death naturally and children seem to enjoy. 7-11yrs

**I Miss You - Pat Thomas (2000)**

A reassuring explanation of death; clear and well-illustrated. 6-11 yrs.

**The Coat I Wear – Mel Maxwell (2014)**

A metaphorical story about losing a sister and 'wearing' the cloak of grief

### MORE INFORMATIONAL/ INTERACTIVE BOOKS:

**The Secret C: Straight Talking about Cancer - Julie A. Stokes, illustrated by Peter Bailey (2000)**

This illustrated guide for children provides a sensitive introduction for a child when someone close to them is diagnosed with cancer; approaching this difficult subject simply but with clarity and sympathy. It is written to be read with children but is very powerful for adults too.

**What on Earth Do You Do When Someone Dies? - Trevor Romain (1999)**

Small comforting book addressing questions Trevor had when his father died --"Why do people have to die?" "Is it my fault?" "What happens to the body?" "How can I say good-bye?-- in simple, honest words. He describes the strong, confusing feelings and suggests ways to feel better, saying it's okay to cry, talk about death, grieve ...and go on with your life.

**Muddles, Puddles and Sunshine - Diana Crossley (2000)**

Practical and sensitive support for bereaved children, beautifully illustrated. It offers a series of activities and exercises to do, accompanied by friendly characters.

**Love Will Never Die – Clare Shaw (2017)**

This is helpfully generic so doesn't assume which special person has died; it is in the form of a poem about the mixed feelings of bereavement and also a workbook children can fill in.