

## **READING LIST: TEENAGERS**

**The Great Blue Yonder – Alex Shearer (2001)**

Brilliant story for 10-15 year olds about a boy in limbo following a fatal road accident and how he finishes his unfinished business. Teen version of Lovely Bones by Sebold.

**A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness and Siobhan Dowd (2012)**

Beautifully illustrated creative story about a young boy having to face difficult feelings around the loss of his mother and the monster who helps him. Now on stage and a film.

**I Had a Black Dog – Matthew Johnstone (2007)**

Illuminating and moving cartoon book about depression and how the author 'tamed it'. May also be good for younger sufferers as less 'wordy'. Also available as cartoon on utube

**We, The Haunted – Pete Johnson (2000)**

Written in an honest and engaging style this is about losing first love & loss.

**The Summer After The Funeral – Jane Gardam (1992)**

A book about an older daughter's struggle to come to terms with her father's death.

**Solace of the Road – Siobhan Dowd (2010)**

A poignant story of a young girl left bereft and in care.

**The Fault in Our Stars – John Green (2012)**

An insightful, bold, irreverent and raw story of young people facing cancer. Also a film.

**Lucas – Kevin Brooks (2003)**

Insightful account of life following the loss of a mother and falling in love.

**The Lost Boy's Appreciation Society – Alan Gibbon (2004)**

Addresses difficult issues of losing a mother suddenly and the struggle with life beyond.

**After the Death of Alice Bennett – Rowland Molony (2007)**

Moving book about teenagers trying to believe a parent is still alive.

**Elsewhere – Gabrielle Zevin (2005)**

A book which may help with thinking creatively about hopeful possibilities after death.

**Ways to Live Forever – Sally Nichols (2008)**

This is the first person story of a little boy dying of leukaemia; going through his bucket list and coming to terms with his ending.

**Broken Soup – Jenny Valentine (2008)**

Story about the impact of a sibling's death on a 15year old girl whose family sink under the bereavement and the mystery which helps her carry on. An easy read.

**The Rainbow Centre for Children** 27 Lilymead Avenue, Bristol, BS4 2BY  
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**Michael Rosen's Sad Book - Michael Rosen (2004)**

Brilliantly illustrated book about ongoing sad feelings following the death of a child without sugar coating or trivialising them. Honest and poignant.

**I Never Told Her I Loved Her - Sandra Chick (1997)**

This book explores Frankie's many feelings -including guilt- after her mother dies.

**Alone at Ninety Foot - Katherine Holubitsky (1999)**

A story about how a 14-year-old girl grieves for her Mum after her suicide. She is often overcome with grief and tears, but finds the peace that enables her to hold her life together.

**Bridge to Terabithia - Katherine Paterson (1977)**

A story about friendship and loss; one dies in a tragic accident and the other fears he is somehow to blame. Through sadness he rebuilds his relationship with his family. Also a film

**Wipe Out - Mimi Thebo (2003)**

When Billy's mother dies, colour leaves his world. However gradually he learns to express his grief openly and takes action to bring the colour, and his father, back into his life.

MORE INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATIONS:

**Teenage Guide to Life and Death – Gilbert (2014)**

See [www.griefencounter.org.uk](http://www.griefencounter.org.uk) for downloadable pdf.

**Dying to know - Andrew Anastasios (2010)**

Info from professionals, people with terminal illness, religious leaders, and those who have suffered bereavement. Ideas, advice and inspiring illustrations.

FOR OLDER TEENS/ YOUNG ADULTS (16+):

**The Blackwater Lightship – Colm Toibin (1999)**

Insightful story about the deep impact of losing a family member.

**Fun Home – Alison Bechdel (2006)**

A heartbreaking and darkly humorous family tale in graphic novel form. A teenaged daughter coming to terms with her sexuality, her father's, and her father's death.

**Grief Is The Thing With Feathers – Max Porter (2015)**

Two young boys face the unbearable sadness of their mother's sudden death alongside a father equally grief stricken. They are visited by Crow who wreaks havoc and healing. Raw, full of unexpected humour and heartache – comes with a warning about language/ content!

**The Last Act of Love - Cathy Rentzenbrink (2015)**

A brother who suffers brain damage and decisions that change lives. Cathy reconnects with the brother she lost and sees the end of his life as a last act of love. Will speak to those who slowly lost someone close and wondered if prolonging life hurt more than letting it go.

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