

BOOKS ON SERIOUS ILLNESS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>READER/LISTENER AUDIENCE</u>
<u>A DAY NO PIGS WOULD DIE</u>	Robert N. Peck	(Grades 4-6)
A gentle story about a 12-year old farm boy whose father is dying.		
<u>A SUMMER TO DIE</u>	Lois Lowry	(Grades 6-8)
Meg's older sister, Molly, is being a grouch and she looks funny. Then she is rushed to the hospital and Meg has to accept that something is terribly wrong. Is it too late for Meg to show what she really feels?		
<u>FOREVER IN MY HEART*</u>	Jennifer Levine	(Grades pre-4)
Missy's mom is seriously ill. Rufus, the dog, guides Missy by showing her how she can deal with her feelings, worries and concerns. This book shows children ways they can participate in the life of a dying parent.		
<u>GENTLE WILLOW: A STORY FOR CHILDREN ABOUT DYING</u>	Joyce C. Mills, PhD	(Grades k-3)
Amanda, squirrel, Little Tree and Gentle Willow are friends. One day, Gentle Willow does not look so good. The tree wizards explain that they can make her feel more comfortable but that they can't make her all better.		
<u>HANG TOUGH, PAUL MATHER</u>	Alfred Slote	(Grades 3-6)
Paul is a baseball pitcher who has leukemia and he's determined to get in as much time on the mound as possible.		
<u>HOW TO HELP CHILDREN THROUGH A PARENT'S SERIOUS ILLNESS*</u>	Kathleen McCue	(Adults)
A supportive, practical guide that explains the needs of children whose parents are seriously ill and dying.		
<u>THE HOPE TREE: KIDS TALK ABOUT BREAST CANCER</u>	Laura Numeroff, et al	(Grades k-3)
A comforting book written to help children cope with a mother's breast cancer.		
<u>JELLYBEANS</u>	Silvia van Ommen	(Grades pre-4)
Two friends meet at the park and one of them brings jellybeans. The two friends talk about what heaven might be like and if they'll see one another there.		
<u>JUST YOU AND ME</u>	Judy Richmond	(All grades)
This book was designed by a hospice worker so the last days a child spends with a dying loved one could be filled with love. Includes 50 fun and memorable ways to say "I love you."		
<u>LOSING UNCLE TIM</u>	Marykate Jordan	(Grades pre-3)
Daniel tells about his friendship with his Uncle Tim and about how he learns that his uncle is dying of AIDS.		
<u>MICHAEL'S MOMMY HAS BREAST CANCER</u>	Lisa Torrey	(Grades k-4)
Michael is upset and afraid because his mother has breast cancer. With the help of Grandma and Daddy, Michael learns to cope with Mommy's illness and his own feelings of guilt, anger, fear and helplessness.		
<u>MY MOM IS DYING: A CHILD'S DIARY*</u>	Jill Westberg McNamara	(Grades k-3)
When Kristine learns her mother is dying, she turns to god for help and has "conversations" that help her sort out her feelings. Written in diary form.		
<u>ON THE WINGS OF A BUTTERFLY*</u>	Marilyn Maple	(Grades k-5)
This is the story of Lisa, a young child dying of cancer, who finds comfort and support in her friendship with a caterpillar preparing to become a butterfly. They share their fears and questions about the unknown together.		

Fernside Supporting Children and Families Through Grief

4380 Malsbary Road, Suite 300 | Cincinnati, Ohio 45242 | www.fernside.org | Phone 513-745-0111 | Fax 513-745-0524

OUR MOM HAS CANCER**Adrienne & Abigail Ackermann****(Grades 3-6)**

When Abigail and Adrienne's mom told them she had cancer, they were afraid. But when the girls couldn't find any books that explained what might happen to their mother and what they might expect, they wrote one themselves!

PAPER CHAIN**Claire Blake****(Grades pre-3)**

When the author was diagnosed with breast cancer, she searched for books to help her young sons understand. She couldn't find any, so she and her friends wrote this one to help other children cope with an ill parent.

PART OF ME DIED, TOO**Virginia Lynn Fry****(Grades 7-12)**

Tells 11 true stories about children and adolescents who faced the death of a loved one, and how they began to feel whole again.

PREPARING THE CHILDREN**Kathy Nussbaum****(Adults)**

Gives insight into the needs of children during a family member's terminal illness plus many detailed ideas on how those needs can be met.

PROMISES**Elizabeth Winthrop****(Grades k-3)**

From her mom's serious illness, Sarah learns about treatments, hospitals, hair loss and to be quiet when she wants to be loud. She also learns her mom keeps promises as they celebrate good times together.

SADAKO & THE THOUSAND**Eleanor Coerr****(Grades 3-6)****PAPER CRANES**

A 10-year old Japanese girl has leukemia and based on a legend, she starts to make paper cranes to help her during this time. Her friends continue to make them after she dies. Based on a true story.

SAMMY'S MOMMY HAS CANCER***Sherry Kohlenberg****(Grades pre-3)**

When the author was diagnosed with breast cancer, she wrote this book for her young son, to help him understand what was happening to her.

**TIMOTHY DUCK: THE STORY OF
THE DEATH OF A FRIEND****Lynn B. Blackburn****(Grades k-4)**

The story of a young duck whose best friend becomes ill and dies.

TOO FAR AWAY TO TOUCH**Leslea Newman****(Grades pre-3)**

Zoe has a very special relationship with her Uncle Leonard who is dying of AIDS. Following a trip to the planetarium, he puts glow-in-the-dark stars on her bedroom ceiling. During a walk on the beach one evening, he reassures Zoe that when he dies he'll be "too far away to touch, but close enough to see," just like the stars.

WHAT ABOUT ME?:WHEN**Allan Peterkin****(Grades k-3)****BROTHERS & SISTERS GET SICK***

This book offers three different approaches in dealing with issues surrounding an illness.

WHEN A PARENT HAS CANCER***Wendy Schlessel Harpham****(Adults)**

A guide to help adults raise children in healthy ways while facing their own potentially life-threatening illness.

WHEN MOMMY IS SICK***Ferne Sherkin-Langer****(Grades k-3)**

A young girl copes with her mother's illness and hospitalization.

WHEN SOMEONE HAS A VERY**Marge Heegaard****(Grades k-6)****SERIOUS ILLNESS: CHILDREN CAN LEARN TO COPE WITH LOSS & CHANGE**

A hands-on workbook to help children identify their feelings when a loved one is sick.

*Indicates item is available in the Fernside Resource Center. Materials may be borrowed. Please call for information.

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When There's a Serious Illness in the Family, Kids Need:

- Accurate information about the illness, presented in concrete language that the child can understand.
- An understanding of the cause of the disease (if known), and how the disease is spread -- or not spread.
- Assurance that nothing they did, said, or wished caused the disease, or can make it better or worse.
- An understanding of the patient's prognosis.
- Permission to ask questions and express feelings.
- Permission to continue to be a child.
- Validation of their feelings.

Additional resources for families facing severe illness:

Cancer Family Care offers emotional support for people coping with severe illness and loss.
2421 Auburn Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
(513) 731-3346

Hospice of Cincinnati
4310 Cooper Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242
(513) 891-7700

Hospice of the Bluegrass – Northern Kentucky
7388 Turfway Road
Florence, KY 41042
(859) 441-6332
(800) 200-5408