

Books for Children On Understanding Death and Dying

- *The Tenth Good Thing About Barney*

- By: Judith Viorst
- Published by: Aladdin Paperbacks
- Age level: 6+
- From the publisher:

My cat Barney died this Friday. I was very sad. My mother said we could have a funeral for him, and I should think of ten good things about Barney so I could tell them...

But the small boy who loved Barney can only think of nine. Later, while talking with his father, he discovers the tenth — and begins to understand.

- *I Miss You: A First Look At Death*

- By: Pat Thomas
- Published by: Barron's Educational Series, Inc.
- Age level: Preschool and up
- From the publisher:

When a close friend or family member dies, it can be difficult for children to express their feelings. This book helps boys and girls understand that death is a natural complement to life, and that grief and a sense of loss are normal feelings for them to have following a loved one's death. Titles in this sensitively presented series explore the dynamics of various relationships experienced by children of preschool through early school age. Kids are encouraged to understand personal feelings and social problems as a first step in dealing with them. Written by psychotherapist and counselor Pat Thomas, these books promote positive interaction among children, parents, and teachers. The story lines are simple and direct — easily accessible to younger children. There are full-color illustrations on every page.

- *Tear Soup*

- By: Pat Schwiebert and Chuck DeKlyen
- Published by: Grief Watch, Inc.
- Age level: 8+

Tear Soup, a recipe for healing after loss is a family story book that centers around an old and somewhat wise woman, Grandy. Grandy has just suffered a big loss in her life and so she is headed to the kitchen to make a special batch of Tear Soup. To season her soup Grandy adds memories like the good times and the bad times, the silly and the sad times. She does not want to forget even one precious memory of her loss.