



When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death

Laurie Rasky Brown , Marc Brown

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Straightforward and compassionate, *When Dinosaurs Die* explains death, dying, and coping with grief and loss in simple and accessible language for young kids and families.

No one can really understand death, but to children, the passing away of a loved one can be especially perplexing and troublesome. This is true whether the loss is a classmate, friend, family member, or pet. Here to offer advice and reassurance are the wise dinosaurs from *Dinosaurs to the Rescue*, *Dinosaurs Divorce*, *Dinosaurs Travel*, and *Dinosaurs Alive and Well*. This succinct and thorough guide helps dispel the mystery and negative connotations associated with death. This helpful book provides answers to kids' most-often asked questions and also explores the feelings we may have regarding the death of a loved one, and the ways to remember someone after he or she has died.

Satisfying and comprehensive, this indispensable book is a comforting aid to help all children through a difficult time in their lives.

When Dinosaurs Die: A Guide to Understanding Death Details

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Eleanor says

This book was given to me when I was five, after my mother had given birth to a still-born baby, and I can genuinely say that it was probably my favorite book ever from my childhood. It talks about death in an honest and helpful way, making clear that it is a natural part of life and can come in many forms. It doesn't sugar-coat death, but it also presents its information in a pleasant way that is easy to understand for a young child. I'm now in my early 20s, and I frequently remember this book with a lot of fondness. Whenever I have kids of my own, I'm definitely buying this book for them. I feel incredibly grateful that I was taught to understand the nuances of death at such a young age, and this book had a lot to do with that.

Paiton Larson says

This book explains what it means when, as well as why, someone dies. It teaches readers that there are many different ways that people can die, and about the feelings that they may have when someone dies. The story discusses how death can impact friendships, and how to say goodbye to people who die. When Dinosaurs Die teaches readers about keeping customs, what comes after death, and also ways to remember someone. In the classroom I could use this book if there was a death of a community member, or even someone famous. A teacher could use this book to help his/her students understand what happened and how to deal with it.

I appreciate that this book doesn't beat around the push. It truly explains death to children, but in a welcoming way. The illustrations help with this. The use of dinosaurs makes the message a little lighter. I enjoyed the speech bubbles as I feel they were very accurate and also made the message a little lighter.

Grace says

Pretty good non-denominational book about death/dying/grief for younger kids. Includes ideas on how to honor your lost loved one (including praying, but when they discuss actual ceremonies they include some from different cultures, not just Christian).

Simon says

Damn! I remember reading this for the first time. I remember it being really sad and scary because there were drawings of dead dinosaurs, not like normal dinosaurs, but one like people.

I thought it was a sad book and that was mostly because I read it when I was 6. Over the years I dabbled back at it. The last time I read it was probably when I was 13, it has been so long.

My mom probably got it when my grandpa died, to explain it better to us. I remember a little bit of the day,

and where I was and the other circumstances, but I don't remember the whole thing, I was 5.

I discovered just today that the book was co-written by Marc Brown! The author of the Arthur series! Now when I think about the drawings, its like characters from Arthur! Now the book is just creepy!

Guadalupe Gouveia says

As a school social worker, I like to have this book available. I have used it sparingly and have only gotten through part of it before kids open up. The drawings are lovely but the content can be overwhelming for kids to read alone.

Alison says

Death is a natural part of life that eventually every person experiences. As we go through life we experience loss of loved ones and people we know. We lose pets, family members, friends, acquaintances...even some young children experience the tragedy of loss. But how do we explain death to a questioning or grieving child?

This is a great illustrated children's book that helps explain the concept of death to young children. The book does not sugar-coat the experience, but adequately explains what death is, what it feels like to lose someone, how to cope with loss, and how to not feel overwhelmed or scared of your own death. I recommend this book to any parent or children's counselor who wants to be up-front and honest with their child, but also wants to provide understanding and emotional support for the child as well. The book is a great starting point and operates from no religious or personal worldview, but rather offers the universal facts in a meaningful and tactful manner.

Randie D. Camp, M.S. says

This book offers a lot of clear, easy-to-understand information about death for children with questions. The authors are also honest, the information is factual, not sugar-coated, which was perfect for my six-year-old.

Jamie Bye says

This book explains what it means, as well as why, someone dies. Marc and Laurie, husband and wife, team up in this book to teach children about death. A family of dinosaurs discusses death while their grandpa lays in bed appearing to be sick. This books is very comprehensive and teaches readers that there are many different ways that people can die. It talks about how to handle feelings that they you may have when someone dies. The story also discusses how death can impact friendships, and how to say goodbye to people who die. When Dinosaurs Die teaches readers about keeping customs, what comes after death, and also ways to remember someone. This book would be a fantastic tool to have in the house for children to become acquainted with the idea of death and to ask questions before it actually happens. In the classroom this could be used if there is a death of a community member to help students understand what happened and how to deal with it.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

Does a thorough job of covering the stages of grief so that kids will understand.

Abby Pooch says

This is a very well-written book about death for children. It is succinct, and manages to throw in some bits of lightheartedness with the speech bubbles and the drawings. This book does bring up religious ideas about death, but presents the views and practices of several different religions, so of all the bereavement books for children, this presents the most diverse views about religious beliefs about death. There is one page that talks about people being killed that may be a bit mature for many adults who are reading this to young children. This book does a good job of validating the different feelings children can have when they're grieving, and also giving ideas about how to cope with the loss. Its simplistic writing makes it something I would recommend both to teachers and parents, both to teach everyone about death and to help a specific child deal with a death.

Stephanie K. says

This book is a great book as it helped my son understand death better after Granny passed. It explains why someone die, what happens to their body. Most importantly they talk about feelings; as we know griving can cause a lot of misunderstood emotions.

Lesson: summarizing: students can express how they feel when they lose a love one

Hollie says

In a perfect world, we wouldnt have to have books like these, explaining death to children. But this book does it well. My nephews (2 and 4) read many times after their brother died at 7 weeks old.

Miriam says

My friends' kids were given this by the hospital, so I'm going to have a look at it.
Hope it is useful.

Beverly says

I think it Ms Brown did a great job of explaining the concept of death for children; and she presented differing reactions and beliefs in a compassionate manner.

Lindsey Hulsey says

Answers basic questions in straight forward ways but appropriate for kids 5 and up. Very cute and helpful.
