

Black History Month GRIEF BOOKS

Updated February 2022



Each individual's grief journey is influenced by their experiences. For many Black and African American individuals, grief is compounded by historic loss and ongoing disparities. Below is a short list of age-appropriate books about grief written by black authors.

CHILD



THE GOOD MOURNING A KID'S SUPPORT GUIDE FOR GRIEF AND MOURNING DEATH

SELDON PEDEN II (2021)

Written from the perspective of fifth grader, Seldon Peden II, this book helps children process difficult emotions that come after a special person dies.



HOW ANGELS ARE MADE

BRYSON THOMPSON SR. (2020)

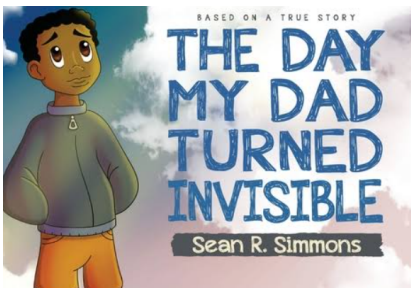
A young boy, BJ, navigates grief after the death of his grandma through a series of sincere conversations with his parents.



EVERETT ANDERSON'S GOODBYE

LUCILLE CLIFTON (1983)

A book of poetry that guides children through the stages of grief after a young boy's father dies.



THE DAY MY DAD TURNED INVISIBLE

SEAN R. SIMMONS (2020)

Based on a true story, this book follows a seven-year-old's journey as he tries to understand what it really means when someone dies.



FINDING LANGSTON

LESA CLINE-RANSOME (2020)

Langston moves from the Alabama countryside to big city Chicago after the death of his mother and struggles to understand his grief and leave the familiar behind.



THE STARS BENEATH OUR FEET

DAVID BARCLAY MOORE (2019)

A young boy navigates his own adolescence, grief, and personal allegiances after his brother's death.

TEEN/YA (CONTINUED)



KING AND THE DRAGONFLIES

KACEN CALLENDER (2020)

After the death of his brother, Kingston grapples with the grief that transforms his family, his friendships, and his identity.

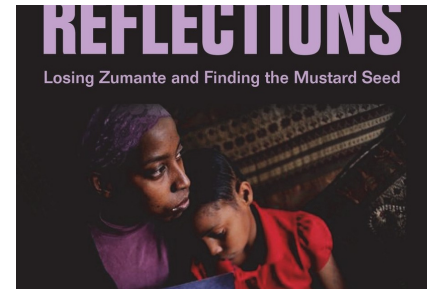


THE BOY AND THE BLACK SUIT

JASON REYNOLDS (2016)

Between his mother's death, father's alcoholism, and his job at the local funeral home, Matt isn't sure if things will ever be okay until he meets a supportive friend.

ADULT



MOMMY'S REFLECTIONS

ZUTON LUCERO MILLS (2012)

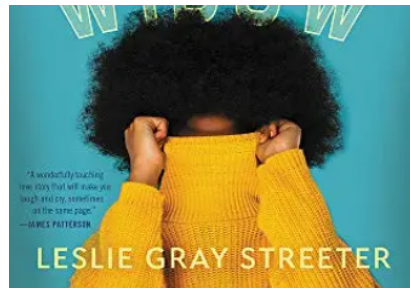
The true story of one mother's journey following the death of her child, examining her emotions and struggling with her own survival.



LEAD ME HOME AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN'S GUIDE THROUGH THE GRIEF JOURNEY

CARLEEN BRICE (1999)

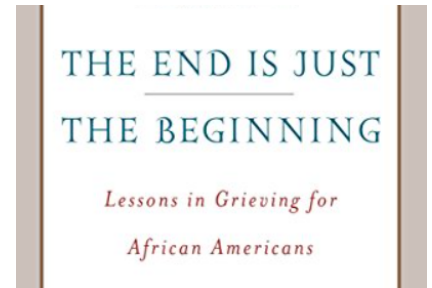
Brice shares her story of loss and guides readers through grief as it pertains to socioeconomic inequities unique to the African American community.



BLACK WIDOW A SAD-FUNNY JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF FOR PEOPLE WHO NORMALLY AVOID BOOKS WITH WORDS LIKE 'JOURNEY'

LESLIE GRAY STREETER (2020)

Streeter navigates the many stages of grief after the death of her husband through the lens of race, mixed marriage, and ageing.



THE END IS JUST THE BEGINNING

REV. ARLENE CHURN, PHD (2003)

Tailored to African American readers, this book discusses the importance of mourning for one's emotional well-being.



HANDBOOK OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

IN LOSS AND GRIEF
DARCY L. HARRIS AND TASCHEL D. BORDERE (2016)

Evaluates the impacts of systemic oppression, power disparities, and implicit bias on social justice for individuals navigating end of life.