

Death Positive Book List

Many of these books are not exclusively about death but have mortality as their subject. The aim is to show how literature has represented death. Please check the content of the books before checking them out of the library. If you are specifically looking for practical advice and help with bereavement, we advise you to look at the 'Self-Help and Grief' section.

Accessible Reading

Salena Godden [Mrs Death Misses Death](#)

Elaine Kasket [All the Ghosts in the Machine: The Digital Afterlife of your Personal Data](#)

Kathryn Mannix [With the End in Mind](#)

Kate Mayfield [The Undertaker's Daughter](#)

Liz Rothschild (editor) [Outside the Box: Everyday Stories of Death, Bereavement and Life](#)

Kevin Toolis [My Father's Wake: How the Irish Teach Us to Live, Love and Die](#)

John Troyer [Technologies of the Human Corpse](#)



Conversations about Death

Michael Hebb [Let's Talk about Death \(over Dinner\): The Essential Guide to Life's Most Important Conversation](#)

Writing Wills and Getting Things in Order

Margareta Magnusson [The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter](#) (reprinted as: *Döstädning: the gentle art of Swedish death cleaning*)



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Self-help and Grief

Mitch Albom [The Five People You Meet in Heaven](#)

Sasha Bates [Languages of Loss: a psychotherapist's journey through grief](#)

George Bonanno [The Other Side of Sadness: What the New Science of Bereavement Tells Us about Life After Loss](#)

Megan Devine [It's OK That you're not OK: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand](#)

Hope Edelman [The AfterGrief: Finding Your Way on the Long Path of Grief](#)

Amy Wright Glenn [Holding Space: On Loving, Dying, and Letting Go](#)

Joan Halifax [Being with Dying: Cultivating Compassion and Fearlessness in the Presence of Death](#)

Richard Holloway [Waiting for the Last Bus: Reflections on Life and Death](#)

Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse [Living is Dying: How to Prepare for Death, Dying and Beyond](#)

Catherine Mayer and Anne Mayer Bird [Good Grief: Embracing Life at a Time of Death](#)

BJ Miller and Shoshana Berger [A Beginner's Guide to the End: How to Live Life and Face Death](#)

Sherwin Nuland [How We Die](#)

Margaret Rice [A Good Death](#)

Juliet Rosenfeld [The State of Disbelief: A therapist's story of Love, Death and Mourning](#)

Julia Samuel [Grief Works: Stories of Life, Death and Surviving](#)

John Wyatt [Dying Well: Dying Faithfully](#)

Irvin Yalom [Staring at the Sun: Being at Peace with Your Own Mortality: Overcoming the Dread of Death](#)

Funerals and Memorialisation

Sarah Jones [Funerals Your Way: A Person-Centred Approach to Planning a Funeral](#)

Behind the Scenes at the Funeral Directors

Caitlin Doughty [Smoke Gets in your Eyes](#)

Kenneth McKenzie & Todd Harra [Mortuary Confidential: Undertakers Spill the Dirt](#)

Carla Valentine [Past Mortems: Life and Death Behind Mortuary Doors](#)



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Death Positive Book List

Children (general)

Aaron Becker [A Stone For Sascha](#)

Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys [If All the World Were...](#)

Benji Davies [Grandad's Island](#)

Nicola Davies [The Pond](#)

Sandra Dieckmann [Waiting for Wolf](#)

Caitlin Doughty [Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?: And Other Questions About Dead Bodies](#)

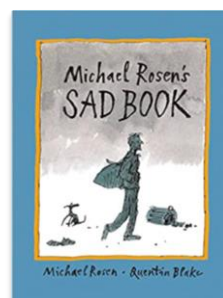
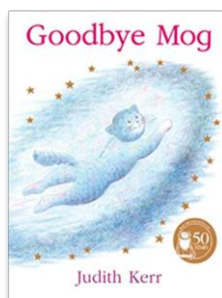
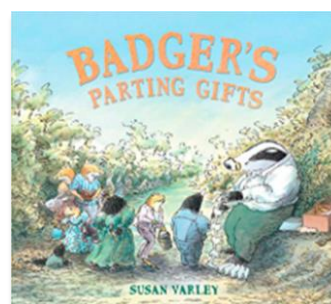
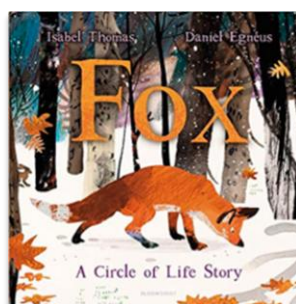
Arlen Grad Gaines and Meredith Englander Polsky (editors) [I Have a Question about Death: A Book for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Other Special Needs](#)

Dawn Hewitt [When Someone Dies](#)

Oliver Jeffers [The Heart and the Bottle](#)

Judith Kerr [Goodbye Mog](#)

Jayde Perkin [Mum's Jumper](#)



Molly Potter [Let's Talk About When Someone Dies](#)

Hilary Robinson [The Copper Tree: Helping a child cope with death and loss](#)

Michael Rosen [Michael Rosen's Sad Book](#)

Britta Teckentrup [The Memory Tree](#)

Isabel Thomas and Daniel Egnéus [Fox: A Circle of Life Story](#)

Susan Varley [Badger's Parting Gifts](#)



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Death Positive Book List

Older Children

Kacen Callender [King and the Dragonflies](#)

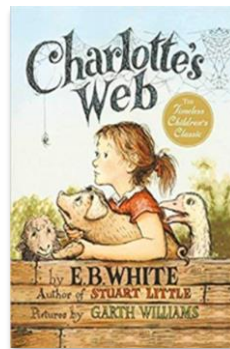
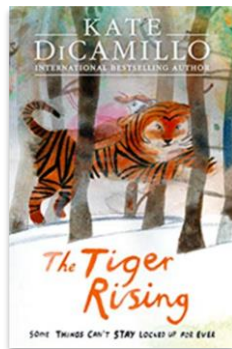
Kate DiCamillo [The Tiger Rising](#)

Linda Newbery [Lob](#)

Ross Welford [The 1,000-Year-Old Boy](#)

E.B. White [Charlotte's Web](#)

Jacqueline Wilson [The Cat Mummy](#)



Young Adult

Ava Dellaira [Love Letters to the Dead](#)

Wolf Erlbruch [Death, Duck and the Tulip](#)

Neil Gaiman [The Graveyard Book](#)

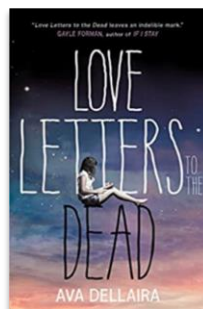
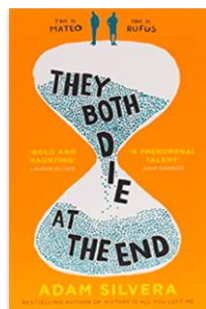
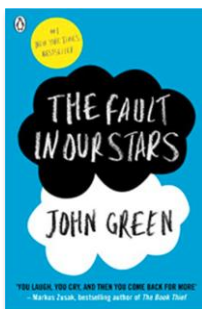
John Green [The Fault in our Stars](#)

Patrick Ness and Siobhan Dowd [A Monster Calls](#)

Katherine Paterson [Bridge to Terabithia](#)

Adam Silvera [History is All You Left Me](#)

Adam Silvera [They Both Die at the End](#)



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Death Positive Book List

Classic literature

Anon [Beowulf](#)

Emily Bronte [Wuthering Heights](#)

Emily Dickinson [Complete Poems](#)

Susan Hill [The Woman in Black](#)

Sheridan Le Fanu [Carmilla](#)

C.S. Lewis [A Grief Observed](#)

Edgar Allan Poe [The Portable Edgar Allan Poe](#)

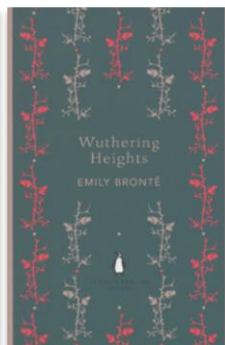
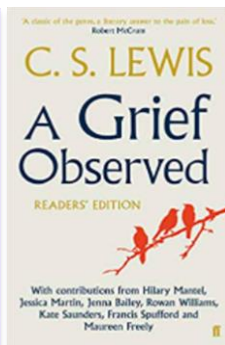
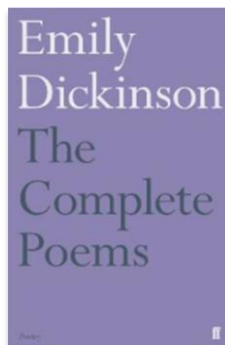
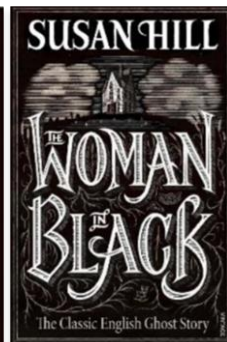
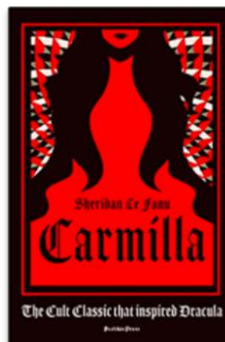
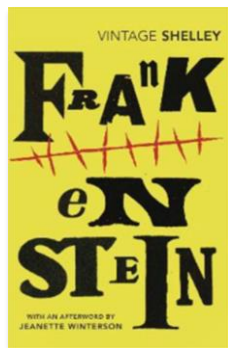
William Shakespeare (ed. Neil Taylor and Ann Thompson) [Hamlet: The Revised Edition](#)

Mary Shelley [Frankenstein](#)

Robert Louis Stevenson [The Body Snatcher](#) (contained in *Strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and other tales* ISBN: 9780199536221)

Bram Stoker [Dracula](#)

Julia Watson [Poems and Readings for Funerals](#)



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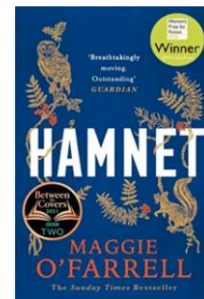
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Death Positive Book List

Modern Literature

Claire Adam [Golden Child](#)
 Julian Barnes [Levels of Life](#)
 Anne Beecher [Here Comes the Miracle](#)
 Salena Godden [Mrs Death Misses Death](#)
 Matt Haig [The Midnight Library](#)
 Patricia Highsmith [The Talented Mr Ripley](#)
 Cathy Hopkins [The Kicking the Bucket List](#)
 Andrew Michael Hurley [Starve Acre](#)
 Kazuo Ishiguro [Never Let Me Go](#)
 Kazuo Ishiguro [Klara and the Sun](#)
 Danilo Kiš [The Encyclopedia of the Dead](#)
 Andrey Kurkov [Death and the Penguin](#)
 Andrey Kurkov [Penguin Lost](#)
 Clare Mackintosh [After the End](#)
 Toni Morrison [Beloved](#)
 Maggie O'Farrell [Hamnet](#)
 Sylvia Plath [Collected Poems](#)
 Sylvia Plath [The Bell Jar](#)
 Max Porter [Grief is the Thing with Feathers](#)
 Terry Pratchett [Hogfather](#)
 Terry Pratchett [Mort](#)
 Terry Pratchett [Reaper Man](#)
 Terry Pratchett [Soul Music](#)
 Terry Pratchett [Thief of Time](#)
 Rayner Sarah [One Moment, One Morning](#)
 George Saunders [Lincoln in the Bardo](#)
 Muriel Spark [Memento Mori](#)
 Marcus Zusak [The Book Thief](#)



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Death Positive Book List

Sci-fi/Fantasy

Iain M. Banks [Surface Detail](#)

Philip K. Dick [A Maze of Death](#)

Philip K. Dick [Ubik](#)

William Gibson [Neuromancer](#)

William Golding [Lord of the Flies](#)

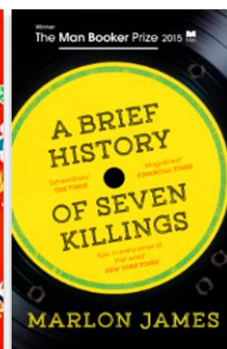
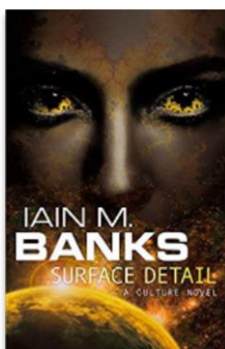
Marlon James [A Brief History of Seven Killings](#)

Ursula K. Le Guin [The Earthsea Quartet: The First Four Books](#)

Richard K. Morgan [Altered Carbon](#)

Richard K. Morgan [Woken Furies](#)

Tarjei Vesaas [The Ice Palace](#)



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Memoirs

Sue Black [All That Remains: A Life in Death](#)

Sue Black [Written in Bone: hidden stories in what we leave behind](#)

Rachel Clarke [Dear Life: A Doctor's Story of Love and Loss](#)

Caitlin Doughty [From Here to Eternity](#)

Caitlin Doughty [Smoke Gets in your Eyes](#)

Niamh Fitzpatrick [Tell Me the Truth About Loss: A Psychologist's Personal Story of Loss, Grief and Finding Hope](#)

Matt Haig [Reasons to Stay Alive](#)

Anna Lyons and Louise Winters [We All know How This Ends: Lessons about life and living from working with death and dying](#)

Helen Macdonald [H is for Hawk](#)

Kathryn Mannix [With the End in Mind](#)

Kate Mayfield [The Undertaker's Daughter](#)

Kenneth McKenzie & Todd Harra [Mortuary Confidential: Undertakers Spill the Dirt](#)

Judy Melinek and T.J. Mitchell [Working Stiff: Two Years, 262 Bodies and the Making of a Medical Examiner](#)

Seamus O'Mahony [The Way We Die Now](#)

Nina Praske [Love in the Present Tense: A Bereaved Mum's Story](#)

Denise Riley [Time Lived, Without its Flow](#)

Mary Roach [Stiff](#)

Kevin Toolis [My Father's Wake: How the Irish Teach Us to Live, Love and Die](#)

Carla Valentine [Past Mortems: Life and Death Behind Mortuary Doors](#)

Death, history, and culture

Anon (ed. John Romer) [The Egyptian Book of the Dead](#)

Lisa Appignanesi [Everyday Madness: On Grief, Anger, Loss and Love](#)

Ernest Becker [The Denial of Death](#)

Erica Buist [This Party's Dead: Grief, Joy and Spilled Rum at the World's Death Festivals](#)

Matt Colquhoun [Egress: On Mourning, Melancholy, and Mark Fisher](#)

Mark Fisher [Ghosts of My Life](#)

Sigmund Freud [Mourning and Melancholia](#) (contained in *On Murder, Mourning and Melancholia* ISBN: 9780141183794)

Atul Gawande [Being Mortal: illness, medicine and what matters in the end](#)

Elaine Kasket [All the Ghosts in the Machine: The Digital Afterlife of your Personal Data](#)

Susan Sontag [Regarding the Pain of Others](#)

Patrick Stokes [Digital Souls: a philosophy of online death](#)

John Troyer [Technologies of the Human Corpse](#)



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