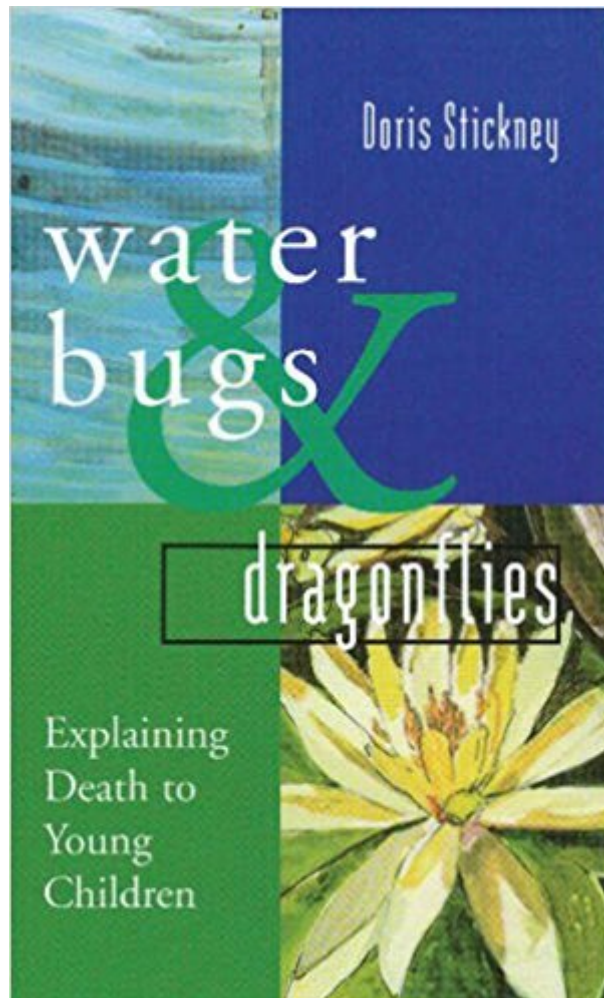




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Water Bugs And Dragonflies: Explaining Death To Young Children



Synopsis

How can we answer the many questions young children have about death? Doris Stickney and her minister husband were looking for a meaningful way to explain to neighborhood children the death of a five-year-old friend -- an explanation that would satisfy not only the children but adult minds as well. While they were preparing for the child's memorial service, the fable of the water bug that changed into a dragonfly came to mind. "Water Bugs and Dragonflies" tells the story of a small colony of water bugs living happily below the surface of a quiet pond. Every so often one of them climbs up a lily stalk and disappears from sight, never to return. Those left behind are faced with the mystery of figuring out what has become of them. Revealing the "miracle that makes shiny dragonflies out of ugly bugs", this graceful story reminds us that God has given us the means of transforming our metaphorical selves into dragonflies capable of winging off contentedly into a new world. Recognizing that "the old answers will not satisfy today's children", Stickney presents instead a simple, wise tale that illuminates a difficult reality without pretending to contain all the answers. This bona fide bestseller -- more than 150,000 copies have been printed -- is presented here in a deluxe gift edition, including newly rendered full-color illustrations. Set in large type so that young readers can enjoy it themselves, Water Bugs also includes accompanying information that offers the author's own insights for explaining how adults can effectively assist children in coping with death.

Book Information

Hardcover: 26 pages

Publisher: Pilgrim Press; 1 edition (January 1, 1997)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 4.3 x 0.3 x 6.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 172 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #135,617 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Self-Help > Death & Grief > Suicide](#) #161 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #284 in [Books > Self-Help > Death & Grief > Grief & Bereavement](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Customer Reviews

Title mention in the Nursery Education, 2007 --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

This really is a great way to explain things in a nice and delicate way to young children. We recently lost a few loved ones in our family, and this book was used on my kids, as well as nieces and nephews. I highly recommend should you ever be in a position of explaining life and death transitions to younger children.

My 43 yo husband died suddenly and unexpectedly in March. While it has been hard enough for me to come to terms with this sad and confusing situation, it has been made even harder having to explain death, dying, heaven, why?, etc. to my 7 and 6 yo girls. A healthcare grief professional recommended this book, and as she was explaining it to me, I began to feel relieved and comforted. As an adult, I felt the book carries a beautiful, simple message about what happens when someone dies. An explanation without details, which is truly what we have in life. My children liked the story as well, although at their age, the concept of a metaphor is a little lost. They "get it" and yet they wanted me to confirm "but Daddy isn't a dragonfly, right?" I would still recommend it because it gives a parent or anyone dealing with a loss a basis for explaining what happens after death and can be used as a tool for further explanation tailored to your beliefs. The person who recommended it to me went on to declare that in her view, the dragonflies can still see and be a part of our experiences, just in a different way, above the water, so to speak. I've read other grief books directed toward children but this is my favorite because of its simple, gentle message.

got this for a friend whose young children have just encountered death of a relative. She had rave reviews about the book and its helpful message.

I like to give this book to friends and family to enjoy and share with their children. It is truly a helpful book for difficult times due to loss of family member, friend or pet. I highly recommend this helpful short story.

When this little book arrived I thought it was not going to work. I read it right away, and I was so surprised by the story, I was crying. This is a beautiful way to talk about death. The story of the

water bug and the dragonflies is a touching and graceful way of explaining that someone might not be right in front of us the way we remember, but they are still around us in a different way. I bought this book on reviews alone, I am so glad I did.

This is a short story with a big impact. I was looking for a way to start to explain the concept of death/heaven to my 3 year old, but I didn't want anything that got into too much detail to overwhelm her. This is a sweet story that relates the journey of a water bug with the journey a loved one takes when they die. There is no mention of dying/heaven - it is all abstract. Although it is written in a simplistic style, it is not only for children. We just lost my beloved grandfather - when I read this, it made me tear up and brought me a nice feeling of peace. I will pull it out from time to time and also share with others. I am glad I found it.

Not really what I was expecting.

An excellent tool in explaining human death to children. For those of all ages who have lost a dog, I recommend the book, Dog Heaven.

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